

Global Strategies

Global Transitions

Global Issues

ANNUAL REPORT

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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 past year has underscored the volatility of global politics and the critical role of LSE IDEAS in navigating these complexities. From renewed tariff battles under the Trump administration to escalating conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East, the international order appears increasingly fragmented. The question is no longer whether we face disorder, but how states and institutions adapt to it.

Jonathan A. Czin's recent analysis of 'China against China' in Foreign Affairs reminds us that perceptions of power are often contradictory. Is the United States in decline, or does its adaptive political system remain a source of resilience? Is China rising inexorably, or constrained by structural weaknesses? The failure of tariffs to coerce Beijing and China's ability to withstand economic shocks suggest a more nuanced reality – one where neither triumphalism nor fatalism captures the full picture.

Amid this uncertainty, the Global South has emerged as a decisive actor. BRICS expansion and new alignments signal a redistribution of influence that challenges traditional Western dominance. For Europe, security concerns – from NATO's posture to EU defense integration – are no longer peripheral but central to shaping global stability.

At LSE IDEAS, we have deepened our engagement with these debates. Our research on economic statecraft, digital governance, and strategic competition continues to inform policymakers and scholars worldwide. Initiatives such as China Foresight and the Global Strategies programme provide critical insights into the shifting balance of power, while collaborations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America amplify perspectives often overlooked in mainstream discourse.

As we look ahead, our mission remains clear: to combine rigorous analysis with practical policy engagement. In a world where disorder increasingly defines the norm, IDEAS stands as a hub for understanding – and shaping – the forces that will determine the future of international politics.

Chris Alden
Director, LSE IDEAS



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 2024–July 2025

11 RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Central and South-East Europe Programme
- China Foresight
- Digital IR in the Information Age
- Geopolitics of Climate Change: Understanding the Geopolitics of the Energy Transition
- Global South Unit
- Global Strategies
- International Orders Research Unit
- Space Policy
- Turkey and the World
- UN Business and Security Initiative
- Women in Diplomacy

RECOGNISED RESEARCH GROUPS

- Conflict and Civicness Research Group
- South Asia Centre

32+ EVENTS

- 14 Public Lectures
- 14 Private events
- 4 Other

152+ PUBLICATIONS*

- 2 Journals
- 4 Policy Briefs (previously Expert Analysis)
- 1 Project Report
- 3 Strategic Updates
- 4 Research Reports
- 20 China Foresight blog posts
- 30+ China Foresight newsletters
- 4 China-Global South Project columns
- 11 Conflict and Civicness Research Group (CRRG) blogposts
- 14 CCRG Research Reports, Policy Briefs and Journal Articles (PeaceRep)
- 2 Digital IR papers
- 10 Global South Unit collaborative research papers, articles and book chapters
- 2 Global South Unit working papers
- 40+ South Asia Centre blog posts
- 5 Turkey and the World publications

23 FELLOWSHIPS

- 6 Visiting Professors
- 6 Visiting Senior Fellows
- 8 Visiting Fellows
- 1 Sotirov Fellow
- 1 Anthony D. Smith Fellow

26 ASSOCIATES

- 2 Senior Associates
- 24 Associates

SOCIAL MEDIA

- 41,700 X followers
- 18,137 Facebook followers
- 2,400 YouTube subscribers
- 16,076 YouTube views
- 241,346 Website views
- 6,966 LinkedIn followers
- 48,117 LinkedIn impressions
- 5,770 Newsletter subscribers

NEW FUNDING AWARD

£2,469,027

TOTAL INCOME

£3,176,072

*Sept 2024 – Aug 2025

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.

Prof Chris Alden (Chair)
Director of LSE IDEAS

Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Deputy Director of LSE IDEAS

Prof Mukulika Banerjee
Department of Anthropology at LSE

Prof Vladislav Zubok
Department 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.

Sir Richard Mottram (Chair) 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.

Prof 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.

Prof 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 Adviser’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.

Prof 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.

Dr Leslie Vinjamuri is Professor of Practice in International Relations and Diplomacy at SOAS University of London, as well as President and CEO of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs – previously she served as director of the US and the Americas programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) in London. Dr Vinjamuri is a Marshall Commissioner and Vice Chair of the Carnegie Council for Ethics and International Affairs, in addition to sitting on the advisory boards of Princeton University’s Reimagining World Order, the LSE US Phelan Centre, and LSE IDEAS.

Prof 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.

Conflict and Civiness Research Group

The Conflict and Civiness Research Group (CCRG) has continued its focus on the study of conflict from the perspective of those who experience war, collaborating with a wide range of in-country research networks. 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 2024-2025 and engaged high-level policymakers, convened multiple public and private events, and offered rapid in time policy advice, particularly in response to events unfolding in Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and South Sudan.

The fall of the Assad regime in December 2024 marked a significant political and social turning point in Syria. This transition led to a proliferation of locally driven civic initiatives across the country, particularly in urban centres formerly under regime control. Our Syria team have been extraordinarily busy engaging in rapid response policy advice to the FCDO as well as making multiple media appearances to analyse the changing landscape. The team also published a report on [‘Syria’s Economic Transition’](#) and led a field visit to Syria and conducted interviews with a range of civic and political actors, which will inform analysis and research.

The Syria team also hosted a dialogue in collaboration with the FCDO on 10 June, bringing together technical economic advisers of Syria’s Transitional Government, UK-based global & Arab banks, UK investors & Syrian businesspersons & bankers. The dialogue concluded with calls for UK-Syria trade agreements and structured engagement with local businesses and transparent government policies to attract foreign investments – laying the groundwork for sustainable and inclusive economic growth in Syria.

The Ukraine team has continued its efforts to analyse the changing contours of the Russo-Ukrainian War and to support the development of policy frameworks that promote long-term resilience and stabilisation – with emphasis on developing strong public institutions and protecting Ukraine’s economic sovereignty as a democratic state. In collaboration with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), the team organised a delegation to Brussels in May 2025, meeting decision makers from the European Council, the European Parliament and the European Commission. On 22 May, we organised an expert roundtable (under Chatham House rules) in partnership with Kyiv School of Economics, Clingendael Institute, and FES: The Road to Rome: Resilience and Recovery in Uncertain

Times. LSE IDEAS were represented in Rome by Oliver Gill and Luke Cooper.

As part of the CCRG’s broader approach to developing research ‘from below’, as critical to generating informed and high-quality knowledge about situations of war and conflict, the team produced its [latest report](#) with insights from our 100+ strong activist network spread across 40 local communities in Ukraine. The team also hosted a workshop in Istanbul in December with human rights defenders and civil society representatives from Ukraine, Russia, and the international community. Discussions at the workshop on the plight of captives of the Russian invasion resulted in a major new international advocacy initiative being established in early 2025, [People First](#), led by the Nobel prize-winning organisations Memorial and Centre for Civil Liberties.

The Sudans team has advanced research on the political economy of war and civic resistance in Sudan and South Sudan. Current work examines the history of fiscal fragmentation in Sudan and the ways it has been countered by civic fiscal resistance, as well as wartime timber economies in South Sudan as oil reserves decline, alongside Sudan’s ongoing war economy. Throughout Sudan’s war, the team’s civic network research has informed

analysis and amplified the voices of displaced Sudanese researchers - briefing FCDO and international agencies, contributing to high-level policy roundtables. Collaborations are shaping a forthcoming journal article on peace-making failures, with research exploring women’s engagement in South Sudanese peace processes and advancing understandings of Sudanese feminisms in conflict.

The Somalia team has continued its work on corruption, including through organising and chairing a panel at the 2025 UN Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks, as well as through a high-impact report. ECHO Somalia have been active users and promoters of this work. In addition, we continue to engage policy audiences on the underlying character of Somalia’s fragmented dispensation, publishing analyses on the government’s current position on the UN Security Council and on its military offensive against Al Shabaab.

The Funders Initiative for Civil Society funded project ‘Climate Emergency and the Future of Civic Space’, led by Dr Iavor Rangelov, launched a well-received [report](#) on the risks of securitising the climate crisis for the future of human rights and civic space. The launch included a [public event](#) at LSE with a keynote address by the UN Special Rapporteur on Environmental Defenders, Michel Forst, and a dinner discussion with funders, academics and activists. A new grant from Civic Futures/Funders Initiative for Civil Society will enable the team to map the ecosystem of actors, ideas, and practices that are pushing back on the securitization of climate change and developing alternatives.

A new and important addition to the CCRG portfolio has been the project on non-nuclear deterrence, funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Led by Professor Mary Kaldor, the project continued investigating alternative options to nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence. As part of the project, the research team organised a 13-part webinar series and a two-day conference at LSE in April 2025. The project team will launch a policy paper, based on research findings and conversations during the conference, in Autumn 2025. The project also received additional funding from the NATO Chief Scientist to organise a workshop on Emerging and Disruptive Technologies in October 2025.

For the complete list of reports and conference/event engagement, please see the [CCRG’s website](#) for full details.



THE TEAM

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

Madiah Karim
CCRG Programme Manager

Dr Rim Turkmani
Syria Research Director

Dr Nisar Majid
Somalia Research Director

Dr Matthew Benson-Strohmayer
Sudans Research Director

Dr Luke Cooper
Ukraine Research Director

Dr Marika Theros
Afghanistan Research Director

For a full list of staff, please visit:
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/projects/conflict-and-civiness-research-group/Our-People>

Below and opposite page: Syria Team headed by Dr Rim Turkmani in collaboration with the FCDO hosted a dialogue on Syria’s economic recovery



Digital IR in the Information Age

Kendrick Chan
Head of Project

Prof Chris Alden
Senior Adviser

Dr Marta Soprana
Project Associate



Kendrick Chan moderated a UNDP fireside chat featuring the UNDP Chief Digital Officer.

Kendrick Chan speaking at the EU EEAS event on digital disinformation.

Dr. Marta Soprana speaking at the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) Global Conference.

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 2024-2025 include:

- Subject Primer by Dr Marta Soprana and Kendrick Chan: 'Cybercrime and the Role of Public-Private Collaboration: A Primer for Policymakers and Stakeholders' (in partnership with Meta and others).
- G7 Background Book Article by Kendrick Chan and Professor Chris Alden: 'The G7 and the future of AI governance' in G7 Canada: The Kananaskis Summit 2025 (published by the G7 Research Group).

EVENTS

The Digital IR project organised the following event this year:

- Closed-door diplomatic roundtables: 'Cybercrime: The role of public-private collaborations for capacity-building' featured high-level representatives from the diplomatic community, government, civil society, and academia (more information below).

DIPLOMATIC ROUNDTABLES WITH META

The Digital IR project has recently concluded a series of diplomatic roundtables in partnership with Meta, the LSE Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa (FLIA), and GK Partners. These roundtables, held under Chatham House rules, were funded by Meta and aimed 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. Three roundtables were held in total, covering topics from digital access, digital disinformation, and cybercrime. In attendance were multiple ambassadors/high commissioners, senior government officials, and representatives from the private sector and development organisations.

Building on the success of these roundtables, the Digital IR project will continue to deepen its engagement with the diplomatic and policy communities. Future activities will aim to strengthen collaborative networks and advance dialogue on key issues at the nexus of international policymaking and digital technologies.

ENGAGEMENT WITH MULTI-LATERAL FORA AND OTHER WORK

Building on the success of our Think20 participation at the G20, the Digital IDEAS project continues its engagement of influencing the policymaking debate at various levels. Our activity on this front includes:

Dr Marta Soprana presented on how different approaches to AI governance matter for international trade at the Society of International Economic Law (SIEL) Global Conference in Taipei 2025.

Kendrick Chan moderated a UNDP fireside chat in Singapore on digitalisation and sustainability featuring Robert Opp (Chief Digital Officer of UN Development Programme) and Rita Abdellatifi (ESG Data & AI Solutions Lead at Microsoft).

Kendrick Chan spoke on a panel about digital disinformation at the London FIMI Forum alongside senior officials from the European External Action Service, FCDO, and others.

Geopolitics Of Climate Change: Understanding The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition – A New World in the Making

Prof Chris Alden
Project Director

Dr Giulia Grillo
Project Manager

This initiative proposes to convene a series of six lectures on the new geopolitics of the energy transition. Over 24 months, experts on varied aspects of the energy transition and its impact on geopolitics will be identified and commissioned to conduct a public lecture, engagement with policy communities, and produce both a policy brief and a short podcast.

On Tuesday 20 May 2025, the first event took place at LSE, titled 'The New Political Economy of Supply: resources, rare earths and finance'. For this first event, the panel featured two key experts: Dr Philip Andrews-Speed (Senior Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies) and Prof Sophia Kalantzakos (Global Distinguished Professor in Environmental

Studies and Public Policy at New York University). The panel was chaired by Chris Alden; the event was recorded and turned into a podcast available on LSE IDEAS' webpage. Additionally, Dr Andrews-Speed and Prof Kalantzakos have both submitted a policy brief based on their speech and conversation with the audience, which are now being edited, and which will soon be available through LSE IDEAS' webpage. Finally, we are now in the process of organising the second lecture on 'The New Political Economy of Production: green technology, R&D and industrial capacity', which will take place sometime in Autumn 2025.



Space Policy

Dr Dimitrios Strokos
Project Head

This project focuses on key trends, developments, and challenges related to outer space activities with the aim to examine the interplay between space policy and international relations. The LSE IDEAS Space Policy project is home to *Space Policy: An International Journal* and hosts public lectures and events at LSE.

SPACE POLICY JOURNAL

In 2024–2025, LSE IDEAS continued to host *Space Policy*, the world’s leading journal dedicated to the field (4.9 Citescore; 1.9 Impact Factor). Four volumes (69–72) were published this year, covering cutting-edge themes ranging from commercialisation and governance to space security, law, and international cooperation.

PUBLICATIONS

- LSE IDEAS Expert Analysis Fey, Jana, and Walter Peeters [International Space University] (2025). ‘The Changing Economy of Space Application and Exploration: A Catalyst for International Cooperation?’ *LSE IDEAS Expert Analysis*, March. <https://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/publications/Expert-Analysis/The-Changing-Economy-of-Space-Application-and-Exploration-A-Catalyst-for-International-Cooperation>
- Strokos, D. (2025). ‘India’s Space Policy: Between Strategic Autonomy and Alignment With the United States’, *Council on Foreign Relations*, 5 June. <https://www.cfr.org/article/indias-space-policy-between-strategic-autonomy-and-alignment-united-states>
- Strokos, D. (2025). ‘Contested Space.’ In *Elgar Encyclopedia of Space Policy and Governance*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781803925479.00017>
- Strokos, D. (2025). China and India as Space Powers: Geopolitics, Domestic Interests, and Prestige, *Hellenic Air Force Review*. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15163712>. Available at: <https://www.haf.gr/news/publications/aeroporiki-epitheorisi/aeroporiki-epitheorisi-teychos-134/>

- Strokos, D. and Rajeswari Pillai Rajagopalan (2024). ‘The Metamorphosis of India’s Space Policy in a Changing Space Order.’ In *Routledge Handbook of Space Policy*. London: Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003342380-43>

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Selected Invited Talks

- 2025: ‘Governing Outer Space in a Multiplex Global Order’; public lecture (online) at the Graduation Ceremony of the African Space Leadership Institute (ASLI), 29 May.
- 2025: ‘Europe’s strategy in space and the global context’; keynote talk at the General Assembly of the Network of European Regions Using Space Technologies (NEREUS), European Committee of the Regions, European Union, Brussels, Belgium, 14 April.
- 2025: ‘China in space’; lecture given at the Great Britain China Centre, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), London, 11 February.
- 2024: ‘Still getting China wrong in space?’; talk given at the Lau China Institute, King’s College London, 17 October.

Media Engagement

Dr Strokos has provided expert commentary on space policy developments for leading international media outlets, including France 24, Nikkei Asia, and Le Point.

He was also featured in the following LSE media:

- Interview with the LSE on the future of space exploration – transcript available at: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2024/11/22/interview-with-dimitrios-strokos-we-tend-to-forget-the-extent-to-which-space-is-so-integral-to-our-daily-lives/>
- LSE iQ Podcast, ‘Who really owns outer space?’ – discussing the politics of space with Dr Helen Sharman (first British astronaut) and Dr Jill Stuart (LSE). Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=55xUYuSgxNk&t=2s>



UN Business and Human Security Initiative



Dr Mary Martin
Director

Dr Vesna Bojicic- Dzelilovic
Co-Director

Mark van Dorp
Research Associate

Carla Russo
Research Assistant

The UN Business and Human Security Initiative completed its six-year research and policy programme with the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. The programme aimed to understand and mobilise private sector contributions to sustainable development and peacebuilding, developing and testing a model of business community collaboration – the Human Security Business Partnership Framework (HSBPF) – with fieldwork in Colombia, Mexico and Liberia. A closing dinner event at LSE in December brought together 40 business leaders from UK and European companies, representatives of governments and the UN, and included a debate on social impact and corporate sustainability. LSE IDEAS showcased its work through videos of its engagement with Heineken and a project to build water resilience in Mexico using the HSBP Framework. The latter demonstrated how a multi-stakeholder approach based on the Human Security Business Partnership Framework could offer a constructive alternative to address the chronic and often acute problems of water management in the northern Mexican area of Monterrey. A collaboration between LSE IDEAS and the Center for the Future of Cities at Tec de Monterrey university aims to engage business, government and civil society in tackling these problems.

During 2024, the programme also launched the Human Impact Pathway (HIP). HIP is a not-for-profit enterprise, supported by LSE Innovation as part of its mission to commercialise and mainstream LSE research through spinouts of social ventures. HIP provides data and consultancy services to help companies and investors understand their social impact at local level in fragile and conflict-affected settings. It also designs action plans to manage constructive long-term relationships between business and local communities.

HIP brings together a team of eight experienced academics and practitioners in the areas of human security, business and human rights, private sector peacebuilding, data science and climate change. It models a hybrid form of research funding whose aim is to generate revenues through advising private sector and other clients, which can then be ploughed back into further research, advocacy and engagement in the areas of social impact, corporate peacebuilding and sustainability. HIP has won funding from London Social Ventures as one of its pioneer examples of a social impact venture, and further funding from LSE to develop a global network of local research and NGO partners, who will be trained in HIP’s distinctive human security approach. In April 2025, HIP won its

first commercial contract: to conduct a local needs assessment for Lipton Teas and Infusions, the world’s largest tea processor, in two tea estate communities in Kenya.

The programme also launched its curriculum for systems transformation, designed for International Baccalaureate students in the United World Colleges network. The curriculum devised jointly with the Inclusion Initiative at LSE contains a module on human security to encourage students to use this approach and methodology in analysing global social issues. The curriculum was launched through a day of lectures and workshops at Atlantic College (Wales) in April.

LSE IDEAS is also part of a research consortium headed by the University of Oslo, which has won £1m in funding for a 4-year project to investigate the impact of the private sector on peacebuilding through the application, and eventual enrichment of stakeholder theory.

Women in Diplomacy



Left: Dialogue with woman diplomats; Right: Public talk delivered to Women in International Security (WIIS) network at Carnegie Europe

The Women in Diplomacy (WiD) project was launched in 2022 with the mission to improve women’s representation and leadership in diplomacy, foreign policy, and policy-making by identifying barriers and enablers to women’s advancement in national ministries, diplomatic services and international organisations. The project is led by Karen E. Smith, Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science, and by Marta Kozielska of LSE IDEAS.

The project’s work centres on research, dialogue, and collaboration.

RESEARCH

There are two ongoing research projects:

1. ‘Examination of women’s leadership in diplomacy’ – by collaborating with and interviewing senior women leaders in diplomacy, the project analyses and streamlines transferable solutions promoting a more balanced representation and increased female leadership in diplomacy and foreign policy. Between August 2024 and July 2025, as part of Series 2 of the podcast series, we spoke with: Melissa Hitchman (Australian diplomat and public servant who served as Australia’s Ambassador to the Holy See), Ximena Fuentes (Ambassador of Chile to the UK), Ann Linde (Sweden’s former Foreign Minister), Jennifer Feller (Director General for

Europe and Mexico’s G20 Sherpa), Yvette Stevens (Sierra Leone’s former Permanent Representative to the UN in Geneva), Kara Owen (UK Ambassador to Ireland), and Ailish Campbell (Canada’s Ambassador to the European Union) – with more conversations in the pipeline.

2. The project team organised a series of workshops and dialogues with women diplomats and practitioners in selected cities and countries to explore in greater depth the issues highlighted in its inaugural report on Strengthening the Representation of Women in Diplomacy: Challenges and Policy Solutions. This activity is being funded by the LSE’s Partnerships and Engagement Fund.

Between August 2024 and July 2025, we met with representatives of foreign ministries, international organisations and civil society groups in London, Brussels, Geneva, and Mexico City. Further meetings in New York, Ottawa and Abu Dhabi are scheduled for September–November 2025.

The insights and recommendations emerging from these meetings will shape the next edition of the Women in Diplomacy report, to be published in early 2026. It will reflect new perspectives and lived experiences from diverse contexts while offering actionable, evidence-based guidance for institutions and governments seeking to advance gender equality in international affairs.

Prof Karen E. Smith
Director

Marta Kozielska
Project Manager

DIALOGUE

The project actively engages with practitioners, leads online and offline discussions (including, podcasts, dialogues and roundtables), and holds public events. The aim is to create time and space to discuss and dive deeper into the issues of women’s underrepresentation in diplomacy, foreign policy, and policy-making, as well as solutions in particular contexts.

COLLABORATION

The WiD project fosters collaborations with a long-term vision to:

- Share knowledge, recommendations, research-based strategies, resources and practical tools .
- Build a global network of women diplomats, allies, practitioners, and experts to drive transformative, structural change.
- Shape debate and practice on gender equality, diversity and women’s inclusion in policy-making by bridging rigorous academic research with practice.

Enabled by the LSE Engagement and Partnerships Fund, our focus this year was to raise awareness about the project internationally, forge collaborations and partnerships, and advance our research through direct engagement with diplomats and practitioners.

You can follow the Women in Diplomacy Project [online](#) and on our [LinkedIn account](#).

Global Strategies



Global Strategies roundtable event with Cabinet Office

The Global Strategies project has continued its work to connect the research and expertise available within LSE IDEAS, the International Relations Department, the wider LSE academic community, and other experts with officials in the UK Government working on foreign, security and defence policy. The project’s prime objective is to provide ideas to 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, along with other counterparts.

ACTIVITIES

During the year, Global Strategies hosted several private roundtable discussion events with the UK Cabinet Office on a range of themes, including future global trends, the relationship between Israel and Iran, and the future of UK energy security. These Global Strategies-chaired events brought together academic and other experts from within the LSE, other universities and think-tanks, the private sector, Non-Governmental Organisations and UK Government.

UK Government interlocutors welcomed these sessions as opportunities to bring together a productive mix of academic and applied professional expertise, providing new challenges, information and perspectives which government analysts might not otherwise have considered; the sessions facilitated better-rounded analytical work and better informed decisions on strategic direction. Global Strategies thus provided a concise and time-efficient way for government officials to bring together and access a range of specialist insight.

Global Strategies also continued to host smaller private roundtable discussions involving LSE and other experts and UK policymakers. These addressed current real-world topics and policy challenges, focussing on next steps in Russia’s war on Ukraine and, in the aftermath of the June 2025 Hague NATO Summit, the future of Euro-Atlantic security.

Topics for the above events and discussions were generated by LSE IDEAS in consultation with the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and Cabinet Office. Invitees included senior UK civil servants and representatives of other UK-based foreign policy think-tanks and organisations, alongside LSE colleagues.

Global Strategies also cross-connected with other programmes and projects within LSE IDEAS, including to identify relevant UK Government officials to attend LSE seminars and events.

In addition, the Head of Global Strategies contributed to the 2024/25 LSE Executive Masters in International Strategy and Diplomacy course, as well as acting in a personal capacity as an expert contributor to the UK’s 2025 Strategic Defence Review.

PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

Looking ahead, Global Strategies aims to broaden its connections across LSE IDEAS, continuing to deepen its connections with UK officials and other institutions and think tanks with a view to connecting LSE expertise still further with UK Government and other sources of foreign, security and defence policy expertise – including in the context of follow up to the UK’s 2025 National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence Review.

Peter Jones CMG
Project Head

Prof Chris Alden
Director

International Orders Research Unit

Dr Aaron McKeil
Founder



In 2025, the International Orders Research Unit advanced its research agenda with new research outputs and activities.

Research outputs include Dr Aaron McKeil’s monograph *Cosmopolitan Imaginaries and International Disorder* (University of Michigan Press, 2025). This monograph explains the collapse of globalism and increasing international disorder, offering a corrective to influential theories contradicted by these trends.

“*Cosmopolitan Imaginaries and International Disorder* is a significant and original entry in the growing conversation about international order and disorder, exploring especially the tension between cosmopolitan order projects and recognition struggles. This is a must-read for all IR theory scholars and students.”

–Ayse Zarakol, University of Cambridge

“This is a penetrating exploration of the fault lines that have shattered cosmopolitan worldmaking and the apprehension that pervades an increasingly disordered world. To fashion a world that is fit to live in, the cause of righteous transformation must keep one eye fixed on the abyss of fanaticism. McKeil provides a vital, indeed, indispensable starting point for this monumental task.”

–William Bain, National University of Singapore

Central and South-East Europe Programme

Prof Alexander Evans OBE FRHistS
Director of CSEEP and
Visiting Professor in Practice

Stuart Austin
Programme 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) run by Prof Lukasz Kamienski and Prof Wojciech Michnik, and our Mladena and Dianko Sotirov Visiting Fellowship – this year, Dr Neli Kirilova.

CSEEP AT THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY

In Autumn 2024, we oversaw two projects funded under the Future of Democracy Lab (FDL) – part of the Jagiellonian University’s Strategic Program Excellence Initiative. These projects included expert seminars, lectures and workshops held at the Faculty of International and Political Studies in Kraków, coordinated with the New Eastern Europe journal.

‘Shadows of Truth: Decoding Russia’s Disinformation Campaigns’ was held in October 2024, running an Open Seminar and closed-door discussions with practitioners across Europe on strategies for countering Russian disinformation threats and the security challenges of cognitive warfare. Moderators and speakers from LSE IDEAS included Prof Chris Alden, Stuart Austin, Maria Branea (European Leadership Network), Kendrick Chan, Prof Alexander Evans, and Prof Stefano Ruzza (University of Turin).

‘NATO after the Washington Summit: Challenges and the Way Forward’ was held in November 2024, with a Keynote from Prof Alexander Lanoszka (University of Waterloo) followed by a public panel – on ‘Keeping the US in NATO’ – and a closed-door expert seminar: the first panel reflected on the major decisions announced during the NATO Summit analysing the challenges the Alliance and its members face, while the second panel will dealt with NATO’s cohesion in the context of the Alliance’s 360-degree security approach.

Further information can be found at <https://cseep.uj.edu.pl/start>.

THE RATIU FORUM

The year began with the September 2024 annual Dialogues on Democracy in Romania – led by Prof Michael Cox, themed ‘The Return of History’ and the survival of the liberal democratic order. In addition to Prof Cox, this year’s conference featured a notable participation of LSE IDEAS academics and fellows: Dr Ivan Lidarev (Sotirov Fellow 2023/24), Prof Piers Ludlow, Dr Mary Martin, Dr Aaron McKeil, Prof Wojciech Michnik, Hugh Sandeman and Peter Watkins.

The Ratiu Forum hosted its 2025 Journalism Masterclass in April, coordinated by John Lloyd (Financial Times). Regional television and press experts gathered to debate themes

of the changing era of journalism, disinformation and fake news, and war reporting. In 2025, the Ratiu Forum continued its Journalism Mentorship Programme, supporting 16 early-career journalists from the region.

May saw the annual Ratiu Forum History Workshop, led by John Lotherington and aimed at history teachers, policy experts, and civil society representatives. This year’s central theme, “History and Identities,” included discussions on culture wars, building democratic capacity in the digital age, and art as a medium for historical dialogue.

The annual Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy – “Realigning for a post-2025 Transatlantic European Security Order” – will be hosted in September 2025 upon the geopolitical backdrop of shifting alliances, security threats and growing national defence budgets, and media manipulation. Led by Prof. Alexander Evans, the 2025 Dialogues will draw together diplomatic, journalistic, and academic expertise from Central and Southeastern Europe, Ukraine, Scandinavia, the UK, and the USA.

Full agenda and speakers list for these programmes can be found at <https://ratiuforum.com>.

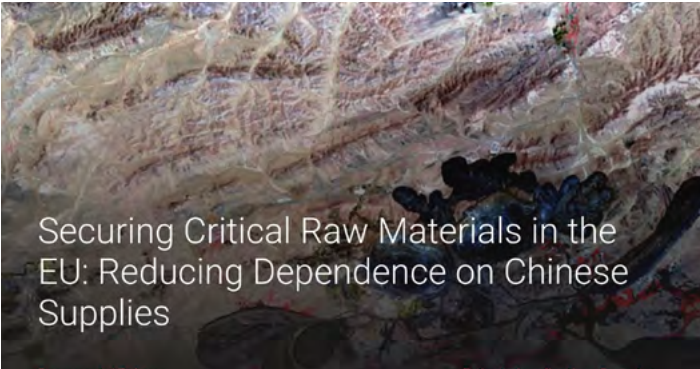


Shadows of Truth: Decoding Russia’s Disinformation Campaigns’ workshop, October 2024 (Jagiellonian University, Kraków)



Ratiu Forum History Workshop, led by John Lotherington, May 2025 (Ratiu Democracy Centre, Romania)

China Foresight



Securing Critical Raw Materials in the EU: Reducing Dependence on Chinese Supplies, China Dialogues



The Trade War Hasn't Broken the China Model Yet, China Dialogues

Lukas Fiala
Project Head

Prof Michael Cox
Senior Academic Adviser

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, communicating these to a diverse and international audience through a range of different outputs.

Over the past year, China Foresight hosted events and roundtables with leading experts on China. Our three-part seminar series *China & Central Asia* invited a wide range of academic experts and practitioners to share perspectives on China’s increasingly complex relationship with the region, through the lens of economic statecraft, agency and power politics, among other topics. We also hosted conversations about China’s vision for global governance in the context of the country’s evolving role in shaping international order.

The project’s *China Dialogues* opinion platform published 13 articles on a range of topics, including China’s role in the global aid architecture, China’s relationships with Russia and Germany, China’s role in critical

minerals supply chains, and many others. In cooperation with the LSE IDEAS International Orders Research Unit, China Foresight has also co-hosted a series of short essays titled *(In)Visible China: Understanding Chinese Global Orders* – edited by Prof William A. Callahan. The series proposes new ways of understanding and analysing ‘Global China’.

As part of our longstanding collaboration with The China-Global South Project, China Foresight has also published 30+ newsletters over the last year, each including a column written by our team on a wide range of issues pertaining to China’s evolving engagement across the Global South.

China Foresight has continued to engage policymakers on a range of subjects as part of our commitment to foster informed discussion of China policy in the UK. The project also aims to engage Chinese researchers and think-tanks to foster dialogue on issues of common concern.

The LSE Global South Unit

Prof Chris Alden and Prof Alvaro Mendez
Directors

Rosalie Roechert
Project Coordinator



LSE Global South
Dialogue Series.

Latin America and BRICS+:
Interests, Risks, and Geopolitical Dilemmas

Wednesday 14 May 2025 at 13:00 (UK)
Speaker: Professor Cintia Quiliconi (FLACSO)
Chair: Professor Gregory T. Chin (York University)
Moderator: Professor Alvaro Mendez (LSE)

The Global South Unit (GSU) at the LSE is a research and teaching initiative based within the Department of International Relations, working closely with LSE IDEAS.

The GSU serves as a hub for exploring the evolving role of the Global South in shaping the international order. Its mission is to ‘de-centre’ the study of international relations by emphasising perspectives and experiences from the Global South.

FOCUS AREAS:

- Foreign policy of emerging powers
- Dynamics of South–South cooperation
- Global South’s role in global governance and climate change
- North–South political, economic, and social relations.

The GSU fosters a network of academics, policymakers, and practitioners to generate innovative thinking and analysis on the Global South. It runs academic research, events, and publications.

It also co-hosts the LSE Global South Dialogue Series with LSE IDEAS, which includes webinars on geopolitical topics from the Global South’s point of view. The GSU publishes working papers and policy briefs, including on China–Latin America relations and the role of the Global South in development finance.

The GSU is co-directed by Professor Chris Alden and Professor Álvaro Méndez, both

experts in international relations and the foreign policy of the Global South. In 2025, they are set to become the editors of the *Handbook of International Relations Theory and the Global South*, to be published by Edward Elgar.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024-2025

In 2024-2025, the GSU expanded its impact through high-level research, international collaborations, and capacity-building programmes. The Unit organised an international summer academy in Shanghai, participated in the ‘Non-Alignment and the Global South’ conference in Belgrade, and delivered the course ‘China and the Global South’ for the sixth consecutive year at LSE and Sciences Po.

The GSU also published new working papers, supported by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation. Additionally, the Unit renewed its cooperation agreement with CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean – to continue joint programming.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The partnership between the GSU and CAF includes joint capacity-building initiatives, research publications, and the annual CAF-LSE Conference. In December 2024, a week-long capacity-building programme was held in Montevideo, Uruguay. A second programme is

planned for London in October 2025 for policymakers from Latin America and the Caribbean. Two new working papers focused on Latin America and the Caribbean are also underway.

CAF–LSE CONFERENCE

The CAF–LSE Conference – *A Pivot to Latin America and the Caribbean* – was held on 5 November 2024 in the Shaw Library at LSE. The event gathered approximately 120 participants and featured opening remarks by LSE President Professor Larry Kramer and CAF President Sergio Díaz-Granados. The conference included panels on Climate Diplomacy, Latin America’s Turn to Asia, and Finance for Development, with speakers from China, Latin America, the Caribbean, the US, and Canada. The event was moderated by Prof Álvaro Méndez, Prof Gareth Jones and Dr Rohan Mukherjee.

PUBLICATIONS AND EVENTS

For the full list of key events, peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, working papers, policy/commissioned reports and media engagements, please see the GSU’s website at the LSE Department of international Relations: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/international-relations/centres-and-units/global-south-unit>.

South Asia Centre



Prof Naufel Vilcassim
(Department of Management)
Director



Dr Nilanjan Sarkar
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This year marks 75 years of the Constitution of India, the world’s longest written, and only illustrated, constitution. The Chairperson of the Drafting Committee, B. R. Ambedkar was an LSE alumnus, as were Renuka Ray (Mukerjee), K. T. Shah, D. N. Sinha and Prabuddha G L Mehta – all members of the Constituent Assembly who contributed significantly to India’s founding text.

We marked this important anniversary with a specially-commissioned logo adapted from the Preamble, alongside a series of blogposts through January–December 2025 focused on different aspects of the Constitution. Most significantly, for the first time LSE Library Archives lent documents relating to ‘Constitution-Makers at LSE’ to an external exhibition: ‘After the Assembly: Constituting India’ at SOAS Gallery. LSE President and Vice-Chancellor Larry Kramer and SOAS Director Adam Habib inaugurated the exhibition to a packed gallery on 22 July 2025, drawing attention to the importance of constitutions as founding documents, and how democracies with (and without) written constitutions function. Politics Curator Daniel Brambilla-Payne and archivist Lisa McQuillan (LSE Library) put together the documents on display at the exhibition.

Earlier, in March 2025, Nilanjan Sarkar accompanied President Larry Kramer on his first official visit to India, where the Centre organised an event in New Delhi to launch the LSE India Foundation. Alumni Nasser Munjee (also Chair of the Senior Advisory Board of the Centre) and Gopal Sankaranarayanan were in conversation with President Kramer, to an audience of 200+



people. Later, Larry spent more than 2 hours chatting with members of the audience about LSE. This was followed by a visit to the Humayun’s Tomb Museum – the world’s first subterranean museum – and a dinner in the lawns of the 16th century tomb complex.

We hosted the last Charles Wallace Trust Visiting Fellow, M. Morshedul Islam from the University of Chittagong; sadly, the Bangladesh Fellowship ends this year due to lack of funds in the Trust. From Myanmar, the Trust will fund an eight-week Fellowship later in the summer.

‘South Asia @ LSE’ remains the Centre’s flagship academic platform, publishing cutting-edge research on the region every week. This year was no different, with one blog published every Monday through the year. It remains among LSE’s top 10 most-read blogs (out of 40+ blogs). We are also the only centre in the world to run a special series of blogposts to mark 75 years of India’s Constitution. Furthermore, we published our 3rd Occasional Paper on ‘Pashtun Alterity in Pakistan’.

The Centre curated a total of 16 public events, including one with Deputy Director of IDEAS Dr Rohan Mukherjee: a panel discussion on ‘Navigating Geopolitics in the Indian Ocean’ focused on the recently published *The Contest for the Indian Ocean and the Making of a New World Order* (2024) by Darshana Baruah. Other events focused on different countries in South Asia, along with some (like regional trade) focused on South Asia.

Eva Nappert won the best essay for the Vera Anstey Student Essay Competition for her essay on revitalising SAARC.



Display at ‘After the Assembly: Constituting India’, SOAS Gallery, 17 July–20 September 2025.



Specially commissioned logo to mark 75 years of the Constitution of India, adapted from the Preamble.



LSE President Larry Kramer (with alumni Nasser Munjee (centre) and Gopal Sankaranarayanan), India International Centre, New Delhi, 24 March 2025.

Turkey and the World

Dr Buğra Süssler
Head of Programme



Koray Ertaş, Turkish Ambassador to the UK, delivering a talk on ‘Turkish diplomacy and conflict resolution’ for LSE IDEAS Executive MSc Students. Chaired by Dr Buğra Süssler. 13 Jan 2025.

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, as well as an overall trend away from Western orientation to emerging-power foreign policy.

The LSE IDEAS Turkey and the World Programme aims to contribute to academic and policy debates on contemporary trends in Turkish foreign policy and Turkey’s global engagement.

RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- ‘Turkey and BRICS: Strategic autonomy and a search for new partnerships in a post-Western world’, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 32, nos. 1–2 (2025): 175–196.
- ‘Turkish foreign policy in Libya: Geopolitical interests and fragile peace’ – Research report, Small Arms Survey, Geneva, 2024.
- ‘Locating Türkiye in Global Critical Minerals Competition Between East and West’ – *China-Global South Project*, 13 December 2024.
- ‘Turkey forges stronger ties with China and non-Western blocs’ – *ThinkChina*, 30 October 2024.
- ‘Why is Turkey Enhancing Cooperation with China?’ – *LSE China Foresight Forum*, 28 August 2024.

EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, ENGAGEMENTS

The programme connects with both academic and practitioner communities. Highlights from the past year include:

Practitioner lecture: *Turkish Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution*. Organised by the programme in January 2025, featuring a lecture by Koray Ertaş, Turkey’s Ambassador to the UK. Attended by LSE IDEAS Executive MSc in International Strategy and Diplomacy students, the lecture explored Turkey’s role in regional and global conflict resolution, offering students practitioner perspectives.

Workshop contribution: Buğra Süssler presented his research on *Turkey’s Role in the Libyan Conflict* at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) workshop ‘Illiberal Peacebuilding: Theory and Practice in Post-Conflict and Crisis

Contexts’ (May 2025).

Research presentation: Chris Alden and Buğra Süssler presented their paper *Brokering Peace: Middle Powers, Agency, and Mediation* at a workshop in Florence jointly organised by LSE IDEAS and the European University Institute (October 2024). The paper examined mediation in middle power statecraft, with Turkey as a case study.

Public panel contribution: Buğra Süssler discussed *Turkey and the Syrian Conflict* in the public panel ‘Is There a Way Out of the Middle East Crisis?’, hosted by the Conflict and Civiness Research Group.

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

Prof Chris Alden
Programme Director

Hugh Sandeman
Head of Practitioners

Dr Aaron McKeil
Academic Director and
Course Convenor

Saniya Kulkarni
Programme Manager

Hongli Liu
Programme Assistant

Marta Kozielska
Alumni Network Coordinator

Prof Chris Alden
Hugh Sandeman
Dr Nicholas Kitchen
Dr Aaron McKeil
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 fourteenth intake of students graduating in December 2025, 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

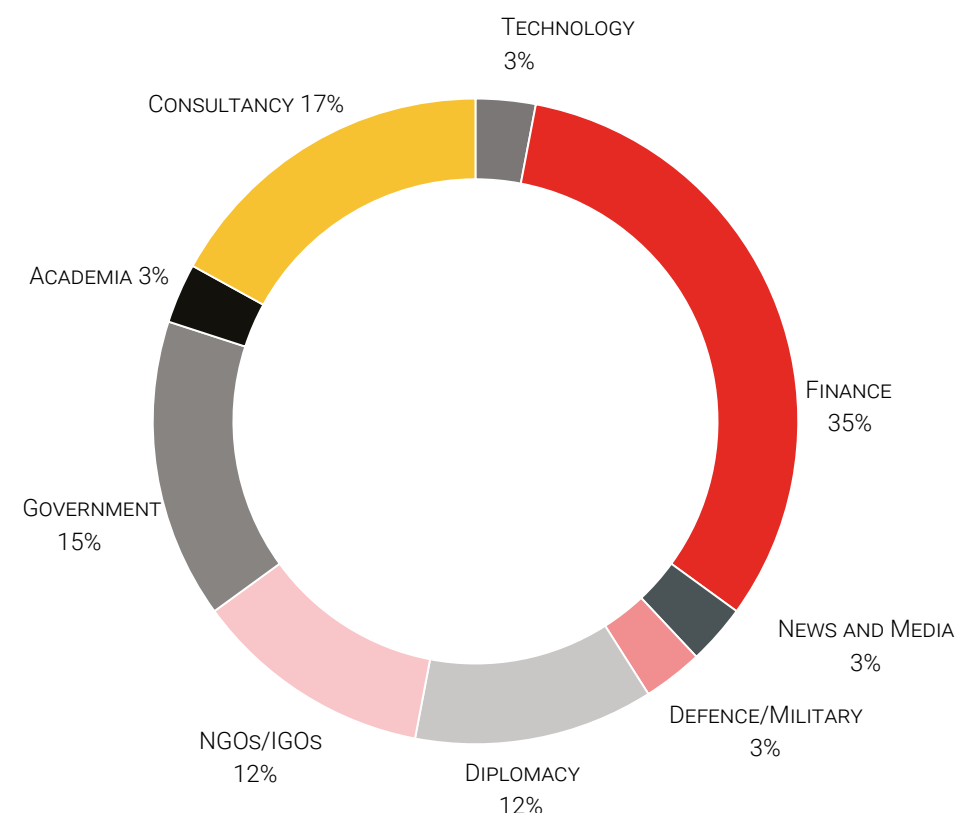
The Programme had a record-high number of students in 2024/25, with 35 candidates from nine different industries across the public and private sectors – including international affairs, defence, finance, international business, and NGOs. This balance is most important in stimulating group discussions with a variety of views and perspectives.

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, on 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.

FACULTY

A vast range of highly experienced and well-known academics and policymakers from the 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.



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
- 20 evening lectures and seminars.

The Programme is offered to students via two routes of participation: residential and non-residential. This modified delivery has provided greater flexibility for students: the residential route is delivered fully in-person, and 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.

The non-residential route meets the needs of executive students in demanding professional roles who are unable to attend the weekly in-person sessions and offers the ability to balance their professional and academic commitments.

IMPACT

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

'Halfway through a career in international affairs, with my last experience of academia over 20 years behind me, the LSE Executive Master's programme has been an intellectual shot in the arm. It has refreshed my appetite for learning, sharpened my analytical skills and exposed me to new ways of thinking and problem-solving, which I have been able to apply directly to my professional life. The breadth of lectures from world-leading academics and practitioners has given me insight into some of the most pressing issues now shaping the world's future and the quality of debate among my diverse and highly qualified cohort has been exceptionally stimulating. Taking the course has also directly furthered my career, helping me secure a new senior role in international development as well as an advisory board position in the security and resilience sector.'

– Andrew Sharples, strategic communications adviser.

'This degree equipped me with essential tools and analytical frameworks, not only to reflect on my field experience and bridge the gap between academia and practice but also to examine emerging global threats more thoroughly. With its unique combination of academic insight and practitioner-led modules, the programme seamlessly integrates theoretical knowledge with the practical realities of diplomacy. As the world evolves, so too must our understanding of it, making the study of diplomacy an ongoing, lifelong commitment. This is precisely what makes this Executive Master's degree such a strong and timely programme for professionals navigating today's complex global landscape.'

– Sahar Ghadhban, Diplomat, Global Affairs Canada. EDUCATION



Alumni Policy Weekend

LSE IDEAS Alumni Network

Marta Kozielska
Alumni Network Coordinator

Upon graduation from the Executive Programme, students join the LSE IDEAS Alumni Network. LSE IDEAS Alumni become a part of a constantly growing and diverse global network of leaders, professionals and experts as well as the dynamic LSE IDEAS community. With just under 420 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 7 June 2025, in a hybrid format to allow external participants to join remotely. Titled 'Power in Transition: Navigating a Multipolar World', it featured Faculty and Alumni speakers as well as industry experts, including former LSE IDEAS Director, Prof Michael Cox and Academic Director Aaron McKeil, alongside many experts: Dr Yu Jie (Chatham House), Simon Smith (former UK diplomat), Katerina Dalacoura (LSE), Tim Stevens (King's Cyber Security Research Group, King's College London), Louise Marie Hurel (Cyber and Tech Team, RUSI), and Melanie Garson (UCL). The event gathered Alumni across nine cohorts, spanning years 2016 – 2025 and was organised in close

collaboration with the Alumni Committee to facilitate timely discussions, insightful panels, and a networking opportunity for all. One the key objectives of the Alumni Network is to ensure regular contact with the Alumni to keep them connected and up-to-date with relevant LSE, LSE IDEAS as well as 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.



Alumni Policy Weekend

Education for Victory

Oliver Gill
Programmes Manager

Matilde Marini
Programmes Coordinator



Programme 2 Cohort Alumni

The LSE IDEAS – Ukraine Capacity Building 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 and reconstruction. It seeks to enhance the capacity of Ukrainian state institutions to swiftly and efficiently integrate Ukraine into the Western world by bolstering the professional potential of the country's leadership, enabling an effective and rapid restoration of post-war security, economy and diplomatic capability.

Our partnership has so far produced four iterations of the programme with a fifth set to run 2026:

- Pilot Programme May-June 2023 (20 participants)
- Programme 2 February-March 2024 (26 participants)
- Programme 3 November-December 2024 (30 participants)
- Programme 4 March-April 2025 (25 participants)
- Programme 5 March-April 2026 (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.

STRUCTURE

Each iteration of the programme constitutes four weeks of teaching: three online, and one intensive week in London. The content is designed to situate Ukraine in its geopolitical and socioeconomic 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, 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 (FCDO), and the Houses of Parliament support the expansion of academic and professional networks and knowledge exchange.

IMPACT

- 100+ Alumni to date set to be 150+ by 2027.
- 90% participants reported enhanced confidence in decision-making.
- 95% participants reported improved team-working skills.
- 90% participants reported enhanced understanding of international context.
- 100% would recommend programme to colleagues.
- 85% participants joined alumni programme.

Publications

Dr Rohan Mukherjee
IDEAS Deputy Director

Stuart Austin
Editor

Indira Endaya
Designer



This year, we rolled out a more streamlined and transparent publishing process. Following the formalisation of our commissioning and editing procedures in 2023–24, we now operate under clearly defined categories and formats. This has improved clarity and consistency across all publication types. Additionally, authors are now required to sign a License Agreement (as per LSE licensing guidelines) during the commissioning phase, prior to final commitment to publish.

Highlights

Strategic Updates

These forward-looking papers address emerging strategic challenges and conclude with actionable policy recommendations.

- *Scramble for the Undersea: Challenges ahead for deep-seabed mining and submarine cables* (July 2025)
Amaia Sanchez-Cacicedo
- *The Changing Face of the South Caucasus* (July 2025)
Teona Giuashvili

Research Reports

These in-depth, long-form reports are developed from major research projects or conferences. They are typically multi-authored, co-branded, and have a minimum publication timeline of two months.

- *Energy Security in the Baltics: Perceptions in the Midst of the Russia-Ukraine War* (April 2025)
Leon Hartwell and Agnė Rakšytė
- *Ukraine's Drone Ecosystem and the Defence of Europe: Lessons Lost Can't Be Learned* (May 2025)
Oliver Gill, Jon-Wyatt Matlack, Sebastian Schwartz
- *International Order Strategies: Past and Present* (November 2024)
Aaron McKeil (ed.), Alexander Evans, Anahita Motazed-Rad, Kristina Spohr, Yu-Shan Wu, and Oliver Yule-Smith
- *Security Challenges in the Black Sea: NATO, the Wider Region, and the Global Order* (October 2024)
George Scutaru and Peter Watkins

Expert Analysis

These mid-length, issue-specific papers offer expert insights and contextual commentary on topical issues.

- *The Changing Economy of Space Application and Exploration: A Catalyst for International Cooperation?* (March 2025)
Jana Fey & Walter Peeters
- *Reflections on WTO Reform* (January 2025)
Ignacio Garcia Bercero

Website Audience Reach

In 2024–25, our publications were accessed total of 11,504 times, comprising:

- Research Reports – 4362 accessed
- Strategic Update – 3635 accessed
- Journals – 1366 accessed
- Project Reports – 1204 accessed
- Expert Analysis – 937 accessed

Top Three Website Reports 2024/25

1. Jon-Wyatt Matlack, Sebastian Schwartz and Oliver Gill, *Ukraine's Drone Ecosystem and the Defence of Europe: Lessons Lost Can't Be Learned* (May 2025) – 2,585 views (22.5%)
2. Karen Smith and Marta Kozielska, *Strengthening the Representation of Women in Diplomacy: Challenges and Policy Solutions* (June 2024) – 1,225 views (10.6%)
3. Linda Yueh, *Economic Diplomacy in the 21st Century: Principles and Challenges* (Aug 2020) – 934 views (8.1%)

JSTOR Open Access Platform

JSTOR's Open Research Reports platform aggregates more than 50,000 research reports from over 187 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 originally published between 2010 and the present, enhancing discoverability and amplifying the reach of our knowledge-driven content to a wider audience.

- 154 Publications total
- 11,658 Access Requests (Aug 2024 – Jul 2025)
- 31,224 Total Access Requests (Dec 2022 – Aug 2025)

Top Three JSTOR Reports 2024/25

1. Stacy Langworthy, *Power Dynamics in an Era of Big Data* (2019) – 608 requests (5.2%)
2. Richard Higgott, *The Decline and Rise of Hegemonic Narratives: From Globalisation and the 'Asia-Pacific' to Geopolitics and the 'Indo-Pacific'* (2024) – 550 requests (4.7%)
3. Aaron McKeil et al., *International Order Strategies: Past and Present* (2024) – 504 requests (4.3%).

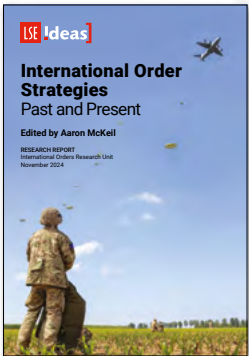
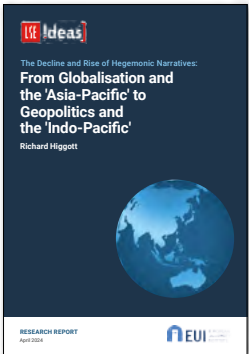
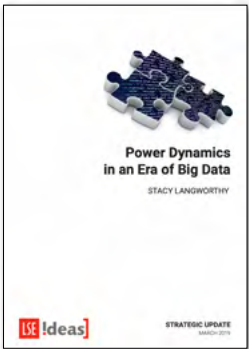


Numbers from
JSTOR OPEN ACCESS

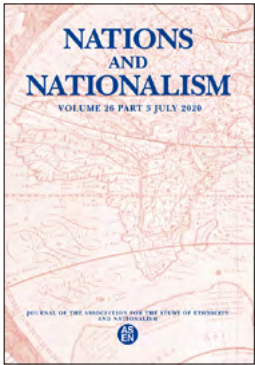
154
PUBLICATIONS TOTAL

11,658
ACCESS REQUESTS
(AUG 2024–JULY 2025)

31,224
TOTAL ACCESS REQUESTS
(DEC 2022–AUG 2025)



Journals: Nations and Nationalism



Joint Editors-in-Chief

Daphne Halikiopoulou
University of York, UK

Jonathan Hearn
University of Edinburgh, UK

John Hutchinson
London School of Economics, UK

Eric Kaufmann
University of Buckingham, UK

Managing Editor

Seeta Persaud
London School of Economics, UK

For the full list of editors and staff, please see:
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/14698129/homepage/editorialboard.html>.



Anthony D. Smith Fellow talk



Ernest Gellner nationalism lecture at CEU



Debate on Aram Hur's book

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 2024 annual memorial lecture on nationalism and the transformation of the state by Lars-Erik Cederman; two themed sections, one on nationhood and mechanisms of solidarity and the other on non-territorial autonomy in Europe (a historical perspective); and a scholarly exchange on the far right comparing Europe and Latin America debate; two prize winning articles – one on transnationalism within the Georgian far right and one on the Zionist right.

Impact

In 2024, the 2-year Impact Factor increased compared to 2023 and now stands at 2.0. The Impact Factor is defined as the ratio of citations received in the Journal Citation Report (JCR) year (in this case, 2024) to citable items published in the preceding 2 years (in this case, 2023 and 2022). JCI = Journal Citation Indicator:

| JCR Subject | Journal Impact Factor | Latest JIF Rank | Previous JIF Rank | Latest JCI Rank | Previous JCI Rank |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| ETHNIC STUDIES | 2 | 7/39 | 16/39 | 2/39 | 2/39 |
| HISTORY | 2 | 3/541 | 6/527 | 41/541 | 33/514 |
| POLITICAL SCIENCE | 2 | 104/322 | 133/318 | 23/322 | 16/316 |
| SOCIOLOGY | 2 | 61/220 | 102/218 | 14/220 | 12/216 |

Additionally, JIF citations increased from 270 in 2023 to 326 in 2024 and Citescore of 3.8 (up by 5.6%). Additionally, JIF citations increased from 270 in 2023 to 326 in 2024 and Citescore of 3.8 (up by 5.6%). For full journal metrics and details, please visit: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/14698129/journal-metrics>.

Events and Fellowship

Nations and Nationalism Annual Lecture: The 2025 Ernest Gellner Nationalism Lecture was delivered by Michael Mann on ‘Explaining the Industrial Revolution: From Agraria to Industria’ on 23 April at the University of Budapest. The full version was published in the July 2025 issue of the journal. The third Anthony D. Smith Visiting Fellow, Timão Aava (University of Vienna), presented his research on the topic ‘From Empire to Nation-State. Minority Rights in Estonia in the First Half of the 20th Century’. The Nations and Nationalism book debate on Aram Hur’s Narratives of Civic Duty: How National Stories Shape Democracy in Asia took place at LSE in June 2025 and the contributions will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Journal.

Journals: Space Policy



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.

Four volumes (69–72) were published this year, covering cutting-edge themes ranging from commercialisation and governance to space security, law, and international cooperation – with a 4.9 Citescore and 1.9 Impact Factor.

EDITOR:
Dr Dimitrios Strokos
(London School of Economics)

NORTH AMERICAN EDITOR:
Marcia Smith
(Space and Technology Policy Group LLC, Arlington, Virginia, United States of America)

EUROPEAN EDITOR:
Xavier Pasco
(Foundation for Strategic Research Paris, France)

For full details of international editorial board, please see:
<https://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/projects/space-policy/journal>

Communications

Clare Stenning
Communications Officer

41.7K
X FOLLOWERS

18,137
FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS

2.4K
YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS

16,076
YOUTUBE VIEWS

241,346
WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS

6,966
LINKEDIN FOLLOWERS

48,117
LINKEDIN IMPRESSIONS

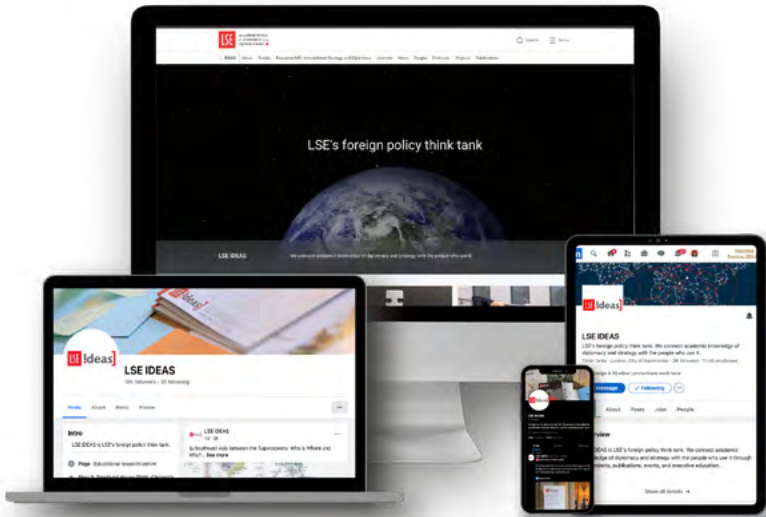
5,770
NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

Numbers from BlueSky PR

416 M
PIECES OF MEDIA COVERAGE

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

1.6 B
COMBINED TOTAL
of publication-wide audience figures for all outlets featuring coverage



During the 2024/25 academic year, we continued to evolve our digital communications strategy, adapting to shifting platforms and audience behaviours. While X (formerly Twitter) has experienced a decline in user activity – with many users deleting their accounts – we have chosen to maintain a presence on the platform due to our significant existing following. However, we have simultaneously expanded our reach to emerging platforms such as Bluesky and continued to strengthen engagement on LinkedIn and YouTube – both of which remain key drivers of online visibility and interaction.

In response to ongoing changes in audience expectations in the post-pandemic landscape, we have committed to delivering events in a hybrid format, offering both a live online stream and recorded content for those unable to attend in-person. This approach has significantly increased our engagement and accessibility, with over 3,000 views on our event videos this year.

Our use of social media for pre- and post-event promotion remains a fundamental part of our strategy. Building on this, we have introduced post-event ‘thank you’ newsletters, which include links to event recordings and related resources. These emails serve multiple purposes: they thank attendees, re-engage registrants who could not attend live, and spotlight additional content relevant to our audience. This ensures maximum visibility for each event and their speakers.

Our regular newsletters have continued to perform well, with a 3.4% increase in subscribers this year. These updates showcase upcoming events, recent podcast episodes, articles, and publications. We have also deepened collaboration with other LSE departments to amplify our reach, with their support contributing to a greater broadcast of our content across various networks.

We have placed continued emphasis on enhancing the design and functionality of our webpages. The Communications Officer has worked closely with Directors and project teams to refresh the project pages, aligning them with our newly introduced thematic structure. Projects are now organised under three strategic pillars: Global Transitions, Global Strategies, and Global Issues. This rebranding creates a clearer narrative framework for our work and improves user experience by making content more accessible and intuitively organised.

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 high-profile publications such as Forbes, Newsweek, The Guardian, and The Washington Times. Together, we have achieved 416 pieces of media coverage across a wide range of outlets, attracting an estimated 14.2 million views.

Events Summary

Dave Sutton
Events Manager

32
TOTAL *

10
PUBLIC EVENTS

4
CONFERENCES

14
PRIVATE EVENTS

4
OTHER

7
OF WHICH WERE ONLINE

4
OF WHICH WERE HYBRID

*Inclusive
Oct 2024–
July 2025

The trend for private events and meetings has continued this year; there has been a slight increase in public events this year, which is important because these are what promote our name and brand. Predominantly we have run evening lectures or roundtable meetings; also of note, however, are some big conferences we have hosted, some over multiple days. These are work intensive and, while we cannot run other events in the build-up, they have run without any hitches and hopefully will get some follow-ups in future.

Two thirds of our events are in-person affairs on the LSE campus. Of the remaining third most of these were online-only with hybrid ones now only accounting for a handful of the total we run.

Two changes have made by the IDEAS events team in the last year that work well. Firstly, to ask people to pre-register for events. This enables us to find out how the public find out about events but also to adjust the room or layout as appropriate to ensure the event has a good atmosphere for the panellists. This also enables us to be more efficient on the costs of catering.

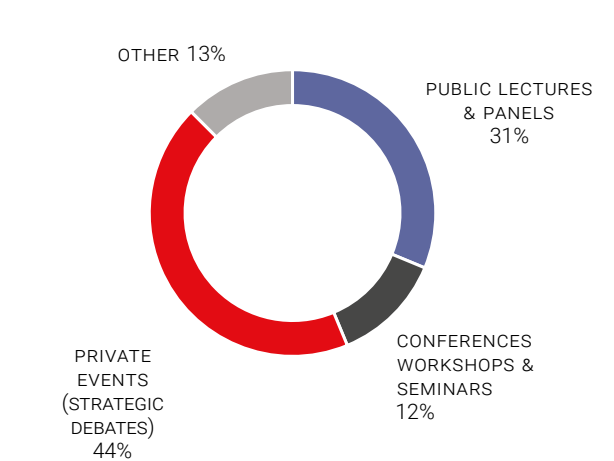
The second change has been to make our feedback form digital and thus making it more convenient than a paper version for people to tell us what they thought of the event. With this change we hope to get more responses post-event and therefore tailor our events programme better.

Over the next year we’re aiming to make sure our events have more lead-in time, as well as overlap between projects, other departments and event topics, and have speakers that are of broader appeal to the public and students.

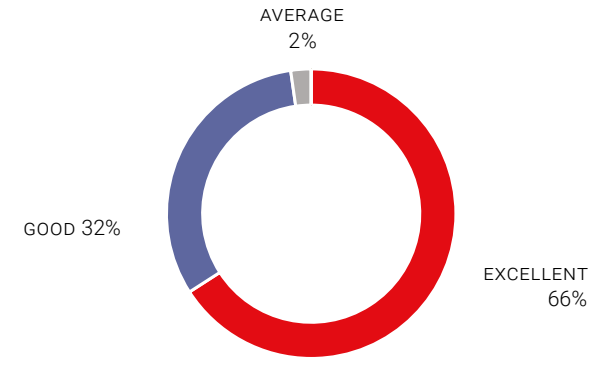


Events Statistics for 2024/25

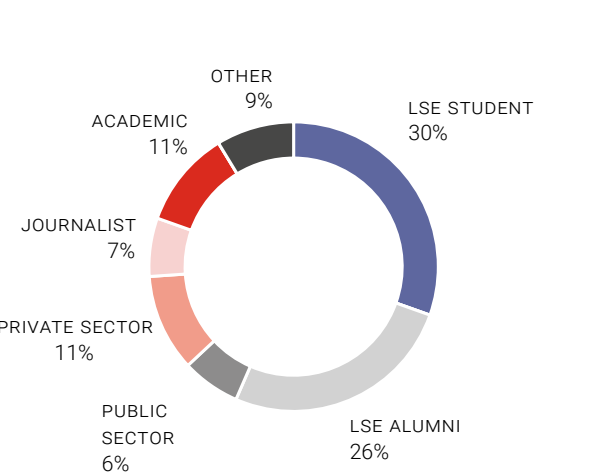
Events breakdown



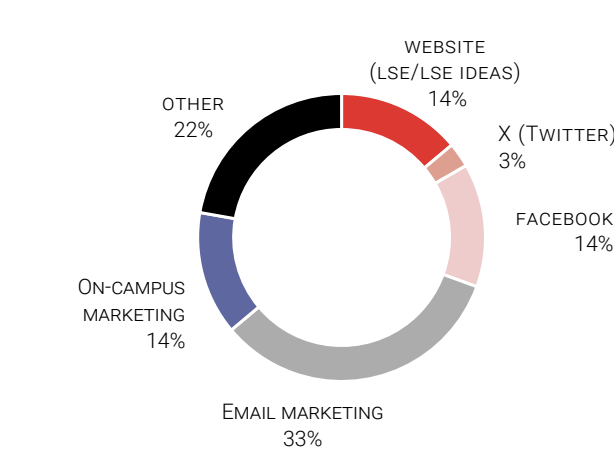
Events feedback



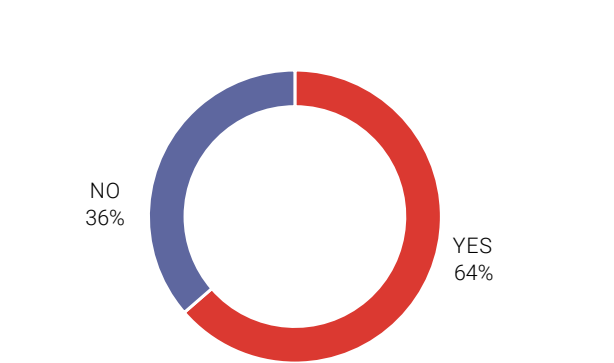
Participants background



How attendees heard about LSE IDEAS Events



First-time attendees



Events List



MICHAELMAS TERM

Ratiu Forum Dialogues on Democracy: The Return of History?
9-10 September 2024
Ratiu Conference Centre, Turda, Romania
Private event

The Ratiu Dialogues on Democracy is an event held annually, organised by the Ratiu Forum (a partnership between LSE IDEAS Central and South-East Europe Programme (CSEEP) and the Ratiu Family Charitable Foundation). The particular focus for the Dialogues is on tackling the challenges of populism, illiberalism, and democratic backsliding – even more urgent with the war in Ukraine and its potential to destabilise the region

Sustainable Cities: Planning, Design and Transport
Wednesday 18 September 2024
18:30 (local time) / 16:30 BST
Private webinar
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speaker: Dr Philipp Rode

This lecture explored the key aspects of sustainable cities, focusing on how various ideas and models are adapted to specific contexts and practices; it examined how sustainable urbanism can contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and how UN perspectives can be translated into actionable policies.

Shadows of Truth: Decoding Russia's Disinformation Campaigns
17-18 October 2024
Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland
Public event and private workshop

Over two insightful days at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, experts, researchers, and participants came

together to unpack the evolving and complex nature of Russian disinformation. The event, organised by LSE IDEAS CSEEP and Jagiellonian University, alongside New Eastern Europe journal, provided an in-depth look at how disinformation is weaponised, its impacts, and strategies to counter it.

Third Diplomatic Roundtable on Digital Global Collaborations: 'Tackling Cybercrime: The vital role of public-private collaborations'
Thursday 24 October 2024
Meta Cubitt Square, London
Private event

Speakers and moderators: Prof Tim Allen, Dr Marta Soprana, Eiman Kheir, Cagatay Pekyorur and Prof Gibril Faal
The invitation-only Third Diplomatic Roundtable is a high-level session on the topic of cybercrime and its impact featuring African ambassadors, senior diplomats accredited in the United Kingdom, and relevant thematic and policy experts.

The Revolution in Warfare is (Still) Coming: Technology on the Battlefield from Yemen to Ukraine
Thursday 24 October 2024
12:00-14:00
Public event
Chair: Dr Aaron McKeil
Speaker: Dr Michael J. Williams

This talk details lessons observed on the future of war based on recent conflicts in Ukraine, Yemen, and the Middle East.

The End of Free Markets? Economic statecraft in the age of geopolitics
Thursday 24 October 2024
18:30-20:00
Public event
Chair: Dr Rohan Mukherjee
Speakers: Prof Kathleen R McNamara, Dr Elizabeth Ingleson, Prof Alexander Evans and Dr Mona Paulsen

This event discussed the roots of change in global industrial policy and geopolitical markets, and whether the new economic statecraft will prove a success or a failed experiment in deglobalisation.



Together for Sustainability dinner

Security Challenges in the Black Sea: freedom of navigation, the wider region and the global order

Thursday 7 November 2024

Hosted by LSE IDEAS/New Strategy Centre
Closed door workshop

This workshop explored the implications for maritime security, regional stability and international law of Russia's illegal forays and activities in the Black Sea; in particular, the contributions of the UK and Romania to developing a strategic response.

NATO After the Washington Summit: Challenges and the Way Forward

Thursday 28 November 2024

Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland
Keynote public panel and closed-door seminar
Keynote speaker: Prof Alexander Lanoszka

This panel debate addressed the question of how the results of the 2024 US presidential elections will affect NATO and its intra-alliance dynamics.

Advisory Board meeting
Tuesday 10 December 2024

18:30-22:00
Private meeting
LSE IDEAS Advisory board meeting and dinner.

Together for Sustainability – A High-Level Event co-hosted by LSE IDEAS and United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security

Thursday 12 December 2024

18:30-21:00
Private event

The purpose was to share lessons learned through the application of the Human Security Business Partnership (HSBP) Framework, and a human security approach to business-community relations. Bringing together participants from government, private sector, academia and NGOs, the event provided an opportunity to discuss how to move forward in deepening and extending the sustainability agenda, co-constructing positive and life-changing outcomes in areas where business operates.

LENT TERM

Turkish Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution

Monday 13 January 2025

16:30-17:30
Private event
Chair: Dr Buğra Söşler
Speaker: Ambassador O. Koray Ertaş

This event explored Turkey's role in regional and global conflict resolution.

Trade Disruption: Trump's Trade Policy and its Impact on the EU and UK

Wednesday 29 January 2025

18:30-20:00
Public event
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speaker: Ignacio Garcia Bercero

This event discussed the return of Donald Trump to the US presidency and his potential impact on trade relationships with the EU, the UK and China.

LSE Global South Dialogue Series: 'Navigating Middle Power Diplomacy: Southeast Asia and BRICS+'

Wednesday 12 February 2025

13:00-14:00
Public webinar
Chair: Prof Alvaro Mendez
Speaker: Prof Cheng-Chwee Kuik

The event discussed why Southeast Asian states are interested in joining the BRICS, with a particular focus on Malaysia-China relations.

South Korea's Democracy at the Crossroads: Endemic Vulnerability or Democratic Resilience?

Monday 24 March 2025

18:30-20:00
Public event
Chair: Dr Boram Lee
Speaker: Dr Soon-Ok Shin

Dr Shin analysed the emergence of radical polarisation and populist elites in South Korea, and how this underpinned President Yoon Suk Yeol's political rise and demise.

SUMMER TERM

LSE Global South Dialogue Series II: Latin America and BRICS+: Interests, Risks, and Geopolitical Dilemmas

Wednesday 14 May 2025

13:00-14:00
Public webinar
Chair: Prof Gregory T. Chin
Speakers: Prof Alvaro Mendez and Prof Cintia Quiliconi

This webinar examined the strategic motivations behind their involvement, the risks they face, and the broader implications amid escalating U.S.-China tensions.2024: A Tipping Point Year.

The New Political Economy of Supply: Resources, Rare Earths and Finance

Tuesday 20 May 2025

18:00-19:30
Public event
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speakers: Prof Sophia Kalantzakos and Dr Philip Andrews-Speed

This event discussed the de-carbonisation of industrial economies, as new sources of energy are propelling the adoption of green technologies and reconfiguring global supply and production chains – reshaping the centres of global power in unexpected ways.

Student and Civic Protest in Serbia (2024/2025): its Messages and Impact

Thursday 22 May 2025

11:00-12:00
Private webinar
Chair: Prof Alexander Evans
Speakers: Prof Slobodan Markovich, Dr Adriana Zaharijevic and Jelena Mandic

The Student Protest in Serbia 2024/2025 is increasingly considered as the biggest student-led protest in Europe since 1968. This discussion explored whether this protest can reverse the wave of autocratisation in Serbia and the Western Balkans, considering its potential and challenges.

Human Impact Pathway Webinar: 'Rethinking Social Sustainability after 2025: Challenges and Opportunities for Business'

Wednesday 28 May 2025

13:00
Chair: Dr Mary Martin
Speakers: Mark van Dorp, Dr Michael Ristaniemi and Jan-Willem Vosmeer

While sustainability is a corporate buzzword, particularly since the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), implementing and sustaining effective social strategies remains challenging for businesses. The aim of the session was to explore what good social impact and sustainability look like, especially amid shifting legislation and stakeholder expectations. The discussion looked at legislative changes and how companies are adapting to a new era of corporate responsibility.

LSE IDEAS Alumni Policy Weekend

Saturday 7 June 2025

11:30-18:00
Private event (venue)
Chairs: Prof Michael Cox, Dr Aaron McKeil and Hugh Sandeman

The Alumni Policy Weekend brought together LSE IDEAS Alumni, Faculty members, experts and practitioners, and provides a platform to reconnect, network and engage in discussions concerning strategy and diplomacy.

The Once and Future World Order

Tuesday 17 June 2025

16:00-17:30
Public event
Chair: Prof Chris Alden
Speakers: Prof Amitav Acharya

An opportunity to discuss the contours of an emerging world order over the long durée as argued by Amitav Acharya and what this means for the 'West and the Rest'.

Drones, People, and Procurement: UK-UA Defence Cooperation and the Future of Warfare

Friday 18 July 2025

London School of Economics and Political Science
Private workshop organised in partnership with Rasmussen Global Ukraine

This one-day workshop focused on the implications of the Russo-Ukrainian drone war for British national (and NATO/EU) defence capability planning, industrial and defence policy, aiming to investigate the impacts of drones and the 'software-isation' of war on the combatants in uniform.



Funding Summary

Finance Manager:
Mireia Franch

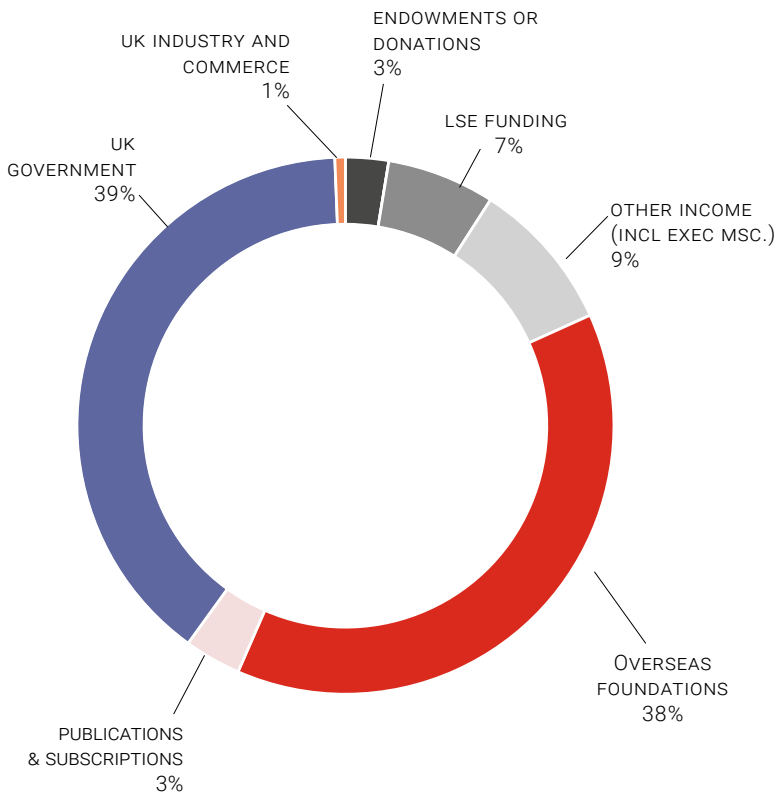
| New Funding for Centre | 2020/21* | 2021/22* | 2022/23* | 2023/24* | 2024/25* |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Charities | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,000 |
| Endowments or Donations | 341,703 | 38,900 | 15,432 | 40,988 | 125,607 |
| HEIF | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| LSE Funding | 29,941 | 0 | 39,040 | 102,767 | 63,794 |
| Other (incl. Exec. MSc) | 140,376 | 145,913 | 104,129 | 144,834 | 179,814 |
| Overseas Foundations | 551,201 | 816,661 | 745,575 | 605,423 | 808,763 |
| Publications and Subscriptions | 74,000 | 63,117 | 30,191 | 54,000 | 47,077 |
| UK Government | 449,820 | 274,461 | 502,291 | 622,883 | 1,183,317 |
| UK Industry and Commerce | 0 | 25,000 | 37,379 | 10,000 | 55,656 |
| TOTAL | 1,587,041 | 1,364,052 | 1,474,037 | 1,580,895 | 2,469,027 |

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

NEW FUNDING (% OF TOTAL INCOME)

| Fiscal Year 2024/25 | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 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 2024/25

FUNDING RECEIVED*
(amount awarded)

| CONTRACT RESEARCH FUNDING | |
|-------------------------------|------------|
| | AMOUNT £ |
| Charities | 5,000 |
| UK Government | 1,183,317 |
| UK Industry & Commerce | 55,656 |
| Overseas Foundations | 808,763 |
| Endowments or Donations | 125,607 |
| | |
| SUB-TOTAL | 2,178,342 |
| | |
| NON-CONTRACT RESEARCH FUNDING | |
| | |
| LSE Funding | 63,794 |
| HEIF | 0 |
| Publications & Subscriptions | 47,077 |
| Other (incl. Exec. MSc) | 179,814 |
| | |
| SUB-TOTAL | 290,684 |
| | |
| TOTAL FUNDING RECEIVED | £2,469,027 |

* Includes CCRG. Excludes SAC.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT*

| INCOME FROM | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| | AMOUNT £ |
| Charities | 5,000 |
| UK Government | 1,183,317 |
| UK Industry & Commerce | 55,656 |
| Overseas Foundations | 902,051 |
| Endowments & Donations | 125,607 |
| | |
| Opening Balance | 613,757 |
| | |
| SUB-TOTAL | £2,885,388 |
| | |
| NON-CONTRACT RESEARCH INCOME | |
| | |
| LSE Funding | 63,794 |
| HEIF | 0 |
| Publications & Subscriptions | 47,077 |
| Other (incl. Exec. MSc) | 179,814 |
| | |
| SUB-TOTAL | 290,684 |
| | |
| TOTAL INCOME | £3,176,072 |
| | |
| EXPENDITURE | |
| | AMOUNT £ |
| Staff Costs | 1,567,035 |
| Non-Staff Costs | 814,977 |
| TOTAL DIRECT COSTS | 2,382,013 |
| | |
| OVERHEADS | 88,341 |
| | |
| Opening balance 2025/26 | £705,718 |

Supporters

£100,000 to £1,500,000

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

Anonymous
ASEN to Nations & Nationalism
Carnegie Corporation of New York
Cato Stonex
Colegio Universitario de Estudios Financieros de Madrid (CUNEF) – Strategic Partnership and Outreach
Friedrich Naumann Stiftung
Fundacion Universidad Intercontinental de la Empresa (UIE) – Strategic Partnership and Outreach
International Institute of Business Management (IIBM) - Strategic Partnership and Outreach
Lipton Teas and Infusions
LSE - The Engagement and Partnerships Development Fund (EPDF)
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