

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR

# Virtual Alumni Weekend

Since this year's annual LSE IDEAS Alumni Policy Weekend has been cancelled due to the outbreak of the pandemic, in collaboration with Class of 2019, LSE IDEAS organised the first "Virtual Alumni Day" on Saturday, 6th June 2020.

We heard from **Professor Michael Cox** and **Professor Christopher Coker** debating if there is a New Cold War.

**Professor Danny Quah**, in conversation with **Anthea Ow** (Class of 2019), Business & Policy Programme Manager in Asia House, discussed the broad topic of economics and the international system in the post COVID-19 era.

**Dr Cherry Yu** in discussion with **Francesca Marina Galliano** (Class of 2019), Global

Philanthropy Specialist at UNICEF, shared her views if, following the events from the year 2020, the world will "quarantine" China.

The day concluded with the British Ambassador to the United States –**Karen Pierce** (Class of 2012)—sharing insights about her experience, career and current post; facilitated by **Bobby Vedral** (Class of 2019), Investor, Advisor and Retired Partner at Goldman Sachs.

The event, exclusive to the Alumni Network and governed by Chatham House rules, made space for open and thought-provoking discussions. We reached our Alumni across continents and—more specifically—across 23 countries, including Peru, Sweden, Australia, North Macedonia and Thailand, to name a few!





## Note from the Directors

This has been the most challenging year that IDEAS has faced since its inception. Thanks to our wonderful team we have gone from strength to strength. And this year we have welcomed the largest cadre of Executive Masters students.

Our alumni remain very special to us and are part of the IDEAS family. We would both like to send our best wishes to everyone for Christmas and hopefully a happier New Year!

**Chris Alden**  
**Christopher Coker**

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# Meet the Leader Series 2020

In Meet the Leader series, LSE IDEAS hosts fireside chats with leading practitioners of strategy and diplomacy, who have achieved distinction in public and private sectors.

Our distinguished guests this year were:



**Lord Jitesh Gadhia**  
an investment banker and businessman and Member of the House of Lords since September 2016.



**Jimmy Wales**,  
Founder of Wikipedia— you can watch the event in full [here](#).



**Naheed Nenshi**,  
Mayor of Calgary— you can watch the event in full [here](#).



# Looking forward to 2021



We are looking forward to the new year 2021. We are convinced it will be a year of success for our Alumni as well as LSE IDEAS.

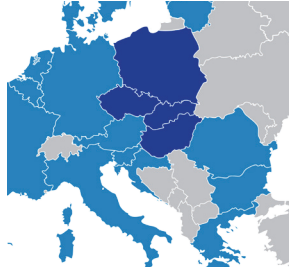
We hope to forge new connections and rekindle old ones. We hope to drive growth and enjoy success whilst navigating the “new normal”.

## Meet the Leader series.

We had three diverse and distinguished guests interact with us in a fireside chat this year—one in person, two on video. All of them wove their personal leadership journeys into the current context for diplomacy and strategy. We look forward to continuing these “Meet the Leader” sessions in the new year. Suggestions always welcome.

**Save the date!** Our **Annual Alumni Day** always takes place on the first Saturday in June – please join us on **Saturday, 5th June 2021!**

We will be developing the event’s agenda with our Alumni Network and Alumni Committee.



## LSE IDEAS’ Central and South-East Europe Programme (CSEEP)

and the **Polish Cultural Institute (PCI)** are delighted to announce three online public events to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Visegrad Group (V4).

## Challenges and possibilities for the Visegrad Economies

Wednesday 20th January, 4-5.30pm GMT

## Seeing Central Europe: theatre and film in the Visegrad Countries

Monday 15th February 4-5.30pm GMT

## The Visegrad Countries in the Global Order

Wednesday 10th March, 4-5.30pm GMT

These events will be free to attend and will be held around the anniversary of the V4’s establishment on 15th February 2021. The partnership was created thanks to our Alumna, **Marta de Zuniga** (Class of 2018), Director of PCI.

The **Visegrad Group** or V4, is a cultural and political alliance of four Central European countries:

**Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia.** It was established to develop regional co-operation in military, cultural, economic and energy matters with one another and to further common interests.

You can track all LSE IDEAS events [here](#).

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the LSE IDEAS Alumni Network please get in touch: [m.m.kozielska@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.m.kozielska@lse.ac.uk)

# alumni

Executive MSc in International Strategy  
and Diplomacy @ LSE IDEAS

If you are not yet part of the 'Executive MSc in International Strategy and Diplomacy @ LSE IDEAS' on LinkedIn, make sure to request access with:

**Marta Kozielska**


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The Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy is managed by LSE IDEAS, the LSE's foreign policy think tank.

We connect academic knowledge of diplomacy and strategy with the people who use it.


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