



School of
Public Policy

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



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Andrés Velasco
Dean of the LSE School
of Public Policy

DEAN'S INTRODUCTION

The London School of Economics and Political Science reviews the progress of each department every five years. In 2023/24, the School of Public Policy (SPP) underwent its first review ever, and I am happy to report that the results were very auspicious. The report praised the SPP's quality education, high academic standards, and outstanding student satisfaction and experience. It also highlighted the engagement and enthusiasm of our faculty, and commended our well-organised and well-led professional services team. The report also endorsed several SPP proposals –most important, the appointment of our own faculty. Plans for hiring and enhancing faculty diversity are being drawn, to continue fostering a vibrant community and to establish a strong research culture.

This is one more step forward in our quest to provide the best training possible to the policy leaders of tomorrow, while interacting closely with the policy leaders of today. The SPP and its students are committed to public service. There is no more noble calling in the world. Nor is there a more necessary calling. With war at our doorstep, authoritarian populists rising and liberal democracies under siege, a pandemic just behind us and the consequences of climate change already upon us, our countries need better public policies. But, above all, our countries need better public leaders. That is where our graduates will make a difference.

What is the spirit with which they should aspire to serve and to lead?

In her Harvard commencement speech, a couple of years ago, former New Zealand prime minister Jacinda Arden defined herself as a pragmatic idealist. I cannot think of a better definition. At our graduation ceremony in July, I called on the SPP Class of 2024 never to stop being idealistic. As Robert Kennedy said, "Others look at the world and ask Why? I dream of things that never were and ask Why Not?"

The challenge is for our 2024 graduates never to stop being pragmatic, either. They should always be willing to listen and compromise. One thing I hoped they learned at the SPP is not to be too sure of what they think they know. Even the best theory has flaws. Even the best causality test designed by the cleverest econometrician is imperfect. One of the beauties of liberal democracy is that by eliciting knowledge from different quarters, and making room for diverse perspectives, we gradually get closer to the truth.

Our graduates now join the growing community of SPP alumni, which spans over 60 countries across five continents. I am confident they are proud of what we have all achieved together in the first six years of the life of the School of Public Policy. I am also confident that many more years of shared progress are yet to come.

”
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OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

29 Aug - 19 Sep

The SPP welcomes new students, including its first cohort of MPA in Data Science for Public Policy (MPA-DSPP) followed by 430 new students and returning students from its MPA, MPP, MPA Double Degree and Executive programmes.

See page 22

2 Oct

The LSE Public Policy Review (LSEPPR) launches its issue on "Russia's War in Ukraine and the Future of the Global Order."

See page 60

Nov

The second year of the Alumni Mentorship Programme commences; over a hundred students are matched together with alumni mentors from a wide variety of career paths.

See page 43

9 Oct

Mikael Damberg, former Swedish Minister of Finance, speaks at LSE discussing Sweden's journey towards becoming the world's first fossil-free welfare state.

See page 50

21 - 22 Nov

The LSE-Fudan Global Public Policy Hub holds its Annual Conference 2023, exploring public policy challenges and priorities for China and other countries.

See page 54

6 Dec

Laura Gilbert, Director of Data Science in Number 10 Downing Street and joint Chief Analyst for the Cabinet Office, joins the SPP for a public event to celebrate the launch of the MPA in Data Science for Public Policy programme.

See pages 28 & 51

22 - 23 Feb

Five student teams represent the SPP at the annual Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) Conference hosted by Sciences Po in Paris this year, where they put forward policy proposals to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations.

See page 34

8 Mar

John C. Williams, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York visits the SPP for an event with Professor Ricardo Reis discussing monetary policy challenges, inflation, and how research informs policy decisions.

See page 51



13 Mar

The SPP's student-led **Public Sphere Journal (PSJ)** celebrates the publication of its 12th edition under the theme of "Inclusive Governance and Diversity in Policy".

See page 62

29 Mar

The **Association of Public Policy Students (APPS) Gala** brings together SPP students, faculty, and staff for a wonderful evening celebrating the end of the Winter Term.

See page 37



24 May

Master of Public Administration (MPA) students celebrate the completion of their capstone projects, in which they addressed a real-world policy challenge with external clients such as the United Nations, FCDO, PLAN International and UNICEF, at the **MPA Capstone Celebration Event**.

See page 24

29 - 31 May

The **LSE Cities** European Cities Programme team presents new research at the Eurocities Annual Conference.

See page 58

30 - 31 May

Master of Public Policy (MPP) students present their projects at the **MPP 'Craft of Government' Symposium**, which brings together students, faculty, expert guests, and alumni to hear students present the culmination of their 5-month long collaborative research tackling real policy challenges impacting communities around the world.

See page 26

22 June

The SPP holds its annual **SPP Alumni Symposium** on "The Year of Elections: Public Policy in the Face of Changing Governments" and in celebration of the 20th graduating cohort of the MPA and the 10th graduating cohort of the Executive MPA (EMPA).

See page 42



17 July

The SPP celebrates its **Class of 2024 Graduation** and the achievements of its brilliant students who join a very active SPP alumni community of 2,300 policy-shapers making an impact around the world.

See page 40

4 July

On the day of the UK general election, the SPP co-hosts the **LSE Election Night Party 2024**, welcoming hundreds of people and several panels of experts for a night of live analysis and debate.

See page 12



30 Apr

The Growth Co-Lab at LSE launches the Growth Diagnostic of Mozambique, a project that provides an analysis of the economy of the country, assessing its growth trajectory, current productive capabilities, and opportunities for strategic diversification.

See page 56





FACULTY

AT THE FOREFRONT OF GLOBAL ELECTIONS

This year has been shaped by a tumultuous schedule of global elections and political debate to which our academic experts have contributed. Here's a look at some key contributions from the LSE School of Public Policy to the global elections this past year.

LSE UK Election Night 2024

On the evening of the UK general election, on 4 July 2024, the LSE School of Public Policy, in collaboration with the Department of Government, supported the highly anticipated LSE Election Night 2024. This event brought together LSE academics and guest speakers for an evening of lively analysis, debate, and conversation, covering the winners, losers, and the consequences for the UK and the rest of the world.

The event featured sessions on a variety of crucial topics: an introduction to British politics, domestic policy, the British economy, foreign policy, climate change, AI and fake news in the media, and the future of liberal democracy. Each session provided in-depth discussions and insights into the implications of the election results.

Several SPP academics participated in the panels, including our Associate Dean **Professor Tony Travers**, who acted as master of ceremonies delivering welcome and closing remarks, live coverage of the Exit Poll, as well as chairing one of the sessions.

Other SPP academics who participated in the panels as speakers or chairs include **Professor Nicholas Barr** who spoke on domestic policy, **Professor Vanessa Rubio Márquez** who chaired the panel on the British economy, **Professor Alexander Evans OBE** who chaired the session on foreign policy, and **Professor Andrés Velasco**, Dean of the School of Public Policy, who was a speaker in the closing panel on the future of liberal democracy.



Election Coverage

Our academic experts at the LSE School of Public Policy have also engaged in the global debate surrounding the elections this year through interviews and commentary on the radio, podcasts, and live TV broadcasts.



Professor Tony Travers, Associate Dean of the School of Public Policy and Director of the LSE London research centre, was solicited heavily for commentary on the local, mayoral, and general elections in the UK, in media outlets including *The Financial Times*, *Daily Express*, *The Guardian*, *The National*, *BBC*, and *France 24*.

Dr Christopher Sabatini and **Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez** made predictions for Argentina's election on *Chatham House's* podcast earlier this year. Dr Sabatini further discussed the Argentine election in *TIME Magazine* and the "turning point" election in Venezuela in *The Financial Times* and *Foreign Policy*.



Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez former Senator and Deputy Minister in Mexico's government, was featured in numerous news outlets to give her thoughts on the Mexican election, including *Chatham House*, *BBC Radio*, *Americas Quarterly*, *The Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *Irish Radio*, *France 24*, *CGTN Europe* and the *Wilson Center*.



IN THE POLICY ARENA



Professor Richard Davies

Professor Richard Davies delivered a series of data science masterclasses at the Bank of England, HM Treasury and the Office for National Statistics. SPP students benefited from the pilot session of this new course, which will also be used in a new SPP offering in the 2024/25 academic year. In addition, Richard is director of the Festival of Economics, which is held in Bristol and sponsored by The Financial Times. In May 2024, Richard Davies and the Economics Observatory team published a groundbreaking new analysis of UK inflation using artificial intelligence tools.

In March 2024, Professor Alexander Evans OBE joined the board of the Internet Watch Foundation. In November 2023, he was appointed a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Army Leadership, where he contributes to doctrine and General Staff training. In May 2024, he was invited to give oral evidence on counter-terrorism to the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, and he also briefed the joint Liaison Committee of Parliament on long-range strategy in government in December 2023. He has been an invited speaker at UK Foreign Office and Cabinet Office policy development meetings and continues to serve on the Advisory Boards of Wilton Park and the British Library. He has spoken on AI, technology and geopolitics at events in the United States and Europe, on disinformation and electoral politics with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, and on Soft Power. He has also spoken on government reform at the Institute for Economic Affairs and to the Greek Civil Service College in Athens. In February 2024 Alexander initiated a new applied programme on regulatory diplomacy, working with G7 countries, Microsoft and other tech companies to improve resilience and policymaking. This complements his separate work on cyber diplomacy, for which he was appointed a (non-resident) Research Fellow at the University of Southern California in January 2024. Finally, Alexander helps mentor Civic Future and Chevening fellows - the public policy leaders of the future.



Professor Alexander Evans OBE



Dr Omar Hammoud-Gallego

As part of a joint LSE-Migrant Democracy Project initiative, Dr Omar Hammoud-Gallego and his team were awarded a total of £85,000 by the Civic Data Innovation Challenge Grant from the Greater London Authority (GLA) and the LSE Regional Innovation Fund, to conduct research on the representativeness of local politicians in London. The team conducted a pilot study in the Council of Camden in June thanks to a £10,000 grant from the GLA as part of a first round of funding, but this new grant allowed them to expand the study to all of London's 32 Councils. As part of this new project, which started in September 2023 and will last 12 months, Dr Hammoud-Gallego and his team hired 12 research assistants from LSE, including students from the School of Public Policy.



Dr Casey Kearney

Dr Casey Kearney took part in the LSE GENIAL project which is a collaborative focus group and research effort to understand how students are using Generative AI tools at LSE. The findings of this research were presented at the LSE Symposium on "AI and Data Science in Public Policy".

In May 2024, Dr Joana Naritomi participated in a one-day event, with academics and policy experts discussing tax gap measures and policies organised by the Secretary of Finance of Sao Paulo state, Brazil.



Dr Joana Naritomi



Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez

Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez was a speaker at the World Bank's Seminar of HUMANS LACEA on Migration and at the Freedom and Prosperity Annual Research Conference of the Atlantic Council, both in Washington DC. She was also a speaker at the annual conferences of the National Agricultural Association of Mexico (CNA), the second largest bank of Brazil (BRADESCO) and UBER Latin America. She chaired the Brennan and Partners panel on "Latin America: A Political and Electoral Outlook", which had the participation of a former president, a presidential candidate, a Central Bank governor and three Ministers of the region.

Professor Tony Travers was a specialist advisor to the UK House of Commons select committee on Levelling Up, Housing and Communities during the 2019-24 Parliamentary session. He is a member of the Mayor of London's London Partnership Board and sits on the board of Global Scholars, a Bloomberg Philanthropies programme. Professor Travers also co-chairs the London Research and Policy Partnership which brings together policy makers in London with academics. This past year, he has been particularly active in the media interpreting UK government and politics to the rest of the world.



Professor Tony Travers



Professor Andrés Velasco

Professor Andrés Velasco joined the Global Task Force on Fiscal Policy for Health, co-chaired by Michael Bloomberg and Larry Summers, and continued serving on the external advisory group to the Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He also delivered talks at the World Bank (IBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Richard Davies

How Can We Grow the UK Economy?
Analysis, BBC Radio 4, 2023.

Why Falling Fertility Spells a Growing Debt Problem
Economic Outlook, The Times, 2024.

Professor Alexander Evans OBE

Is The British State Broken?
Institute of Economic Affairs Podcast, 2023.

Professor Alexander Evans contributed to Civil Service World on leadership and management issues.

For the civil service, prestige can be a double-edged sword

Plain failing: Leadership means sharing career disappointments as well as success

Dr Omar Hammoud-Gallego

Dr Omar Hammoud-Gallego has participated in a series of debates on GB News, challenging the UK's Rwanda Plan aimed at tackling irregular migration.

Professor Luis Garicano

The EU's New Fiscal Rules Are Not Fit For Purpose
The Financial Times, 2024.

Dr Tim Leunig

Letter: Government Needs Timely and Reliable Labour Data
The Financial Times, 2023.

Frank Muci

El Salvador's Long-Planned Bitcoin Bonds As 'Unserious'
CoinDesk, 2023.

Dr Joana Naritomi

w/ Evan Kresch, Mark Walker, Michael Best, and Francois Gerard
Sanitation and property tax compliance: Analysing the social contract in Brazil
VoxDev, 2024.

Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez

Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez was interviewed on BBC News World Service about Latin America from a regional perspective, on one hand, and a comparative lens with South East Asia on the other. Discover and listen to the two episodes below
What's holding Latin America back?

Latin America and the Asian Tiger Economies
Business Daily, BBC News World Service, 2024.

Dr Christopher Sabatini

Argentina Faces a Bleak Election
Time, 2023.

Is Venezuela about to invade its neighbour?
The Inquiry, BBC News World Service, 2024.

Professor Tony Travers

Tony Travers: Ministers Can't Question Local Government's Competence After Covid Inquiry Revelations
Local Government Chronicle, 2023.

Bloomberg UK Politics: Who's Delivering?
Bloomberg UK Politics Podcast, Bloomberg UK, 2024.

Elected Mayors Have Made Their Mark, But Still Westminster Hogs Power. That's a National Embarrassment.
The Guardian, 2024.

Professor Andrés Velasco

Professor Andrés Velasco writes a monthly column for Project Syndicate, covering international politics and economics. Read his latest pieces on Project Syndicate.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Gwyn Bevan

How Did Britain Come To This?
LSE Press, 2023.

Dr Daniel Brieba

w/ Mauricio-René Herrera-Marín, Marcelo Riffo and Danilo Garrido
Inside the Black Box: Uncovering Dynamics and Characteristics of the Chilean Central Government Bureaucracy with a Novel Dataset
Latin American Politics & Society, Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Professor Richard Davies

w/ Nadim Hamdan and Gregory Thwaites
Ready for change: How and why to make the UK economy more dynamic
The Economy 2030 Inquiry, Resolution Foundation, 2023.

w/ Finn McEvoy

Faster, bigger, cheaper: How AI can improve UK price data
Economics Observatory, 2024.

Dr Omar Hammoud-Gallego

The Short-Term Effects of Visa Restrictions on Migrants' Legal Status and Well-Being: A Difference-In-Differences Approach On Venezuelan Displacement
World Development Journal, Elsevier, 2024.

Professor Adnan Khan

w/ Christian Rogg and Charlotte Watts
Road to SDGs: Review of Evidence and Implications for Policy
LSE School of Public Policy, 2024.

Dr Joana Naritomi

w/ Karin Sjöstrand, Evan Plous Kresch, Mark Walker, Michael Carlos Best, and François Gerard
Sewage system access and tax compliance
Nature Water, Nature, 2023.

Dr Eugenia Nazrullaeva

w/ Anja Neundorff, Ksenia Northmore-Ball, Katerina Tertytchnaya, and Wooseok Kim
Varieties of Indoctrination: The Politicization of Education and the Media around the World
Perspectives on Politics, Cambridge University Press, 2024.

Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez

"Mexico's vital institutions face decline" in 2024 Atlas: Freedom and Prosperity Around the World
Atlantic Council's Freedom and Prosperity Center, 2024.

"The Mexican Economy: The Good, The Bad, The Possible" in *Deciphering Mexico: Essays from the Perspectives of Women Experts*
Híbridos Proyectos Culturales, 2023.

Professor Andrés Velasco

w/ Arminio Fraga and Guillermo Ortiz and SPP students Catalina Montes, Mónica Palomino, Joaquín Marandino and Renzo Giraud
Why Does Latin America Underperform?
Group of Thirty, 2023.

w/ Robert Funk

Discussion Paper: Identity, Civic Capital, And The Narrow Path
Centre for Economic Policy Research, 2024.

Professor Alex Voorhoeve

w/ Yuriy Dzhygyr, Elina Dale, Unni Gopinathan, and Kateryna Maynzyuk
Procedural fairness and the resilience of health financing reforms in Ukraine
Health Policy and Planning, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, 2023.



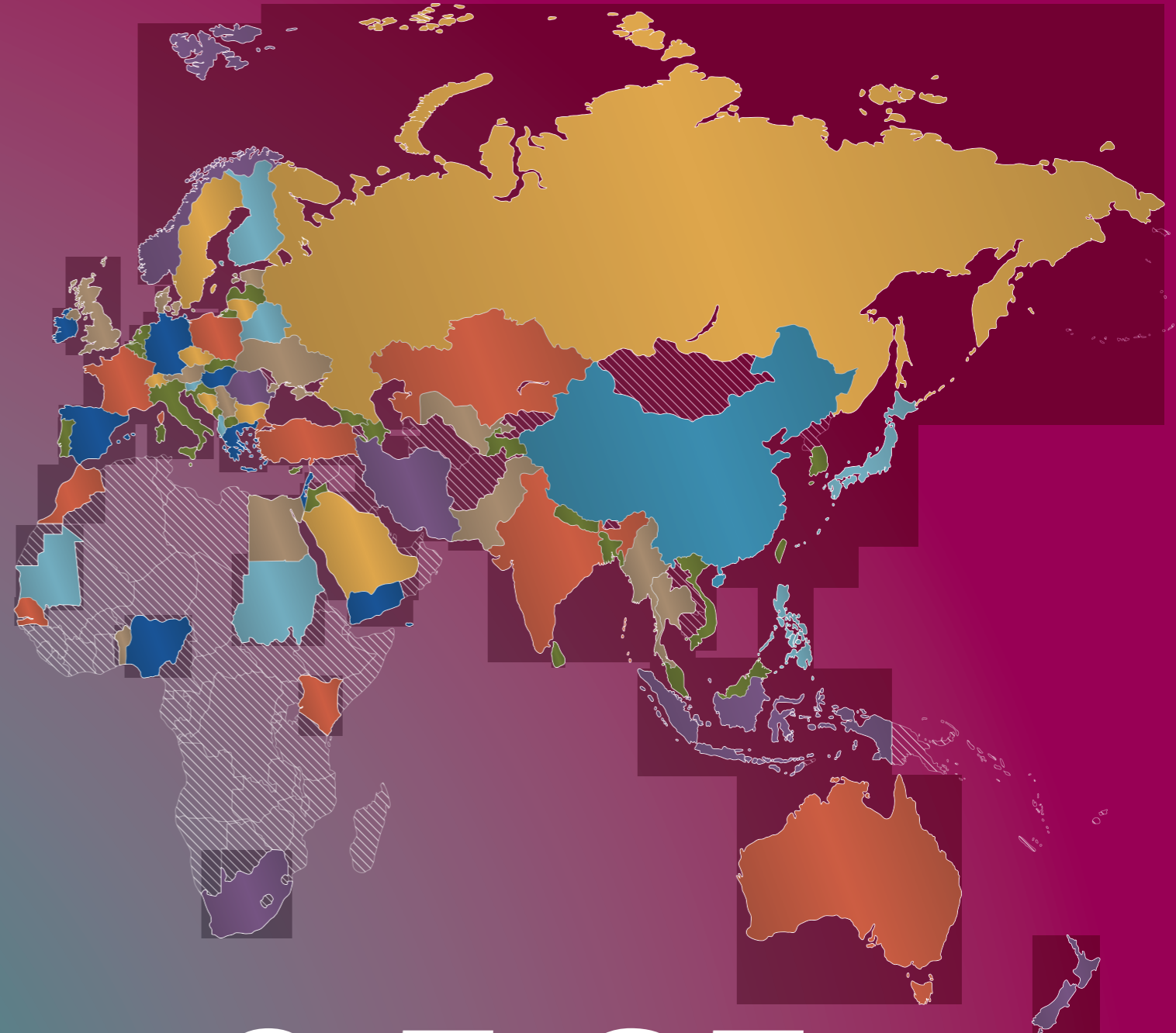
STUDENTS

OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY

8 Postgraduate degree programmes

430 Students

60 Nationalities



0.5 to 35 years
Professional experience range

TEACHING IN THE 2023/24 ACADEMIC YEAR

The 2023/24 academic year was another great period of growth for our LSE School of Public Policy community. The SPP now offers 8 postgraduate programmes designed for early-stage to executive level professionals.

In September 2023 we welcomed 430 new and returning students, representing 60 nationalities and a range of professional and academic backgrounds. This makes for a dynamic and truly global school of public policy, where students, faculty and experts come together to combine their expertise to discuss, debate and collaborate on solving pressing policy challenges.

In amongst our new cohort are our first ever intake of MPA in Data Science for Public Policy (MPA-DSPP) students and our first intake of scholars supported by the Peruvian Scholarship for Public Service, who join their fellow SPP scholars from Chile, Africa and Asia.

Our SPP faculty continues to grow as we welcome new faculty with individual expertise and experiences in public policy to share with our students. This year, we were delighted to welcome Professor Luis Garicano, a leading scholar and former Member of the European Parliament, and Professor Richard Davies, economist, author and founding member of the UK's Economics Observatory, to the LSE School of Public Policy.

We close off this academic year by celebrating our SPP graduates, which include our 20th graduating MPA class and our 10th graduating Executive MPA class. We are happy to welcome them to our SPP alumni community and look forward to continuing to connect with them as they make an impact in policy around the world.



MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (MPA)

A Message from MPA Programme Director, Dr Lloyd Gruber

This year our MPA programme is proudly celebrating its 20th graduating cohort! Starting with just 18 MPA pioneers, our programme now brings together more than 150 talented students every year, the policy movers and shakers of tomorrow. Their multi-disciplinary training combines the best LSE has to offer, exposing them to the cutting-edge quantitative, political economy, and management techniques they'll be drawing on for the rest of their careers. Here, in the MPA they learn high-level theory and high-level practice – all at once. It's this blending of core skills training with practical, real-world experience that makes our programme special. It's also why our analytically sharp, politically savvy MPA graduates are already making a mark on the world. They can do it all.

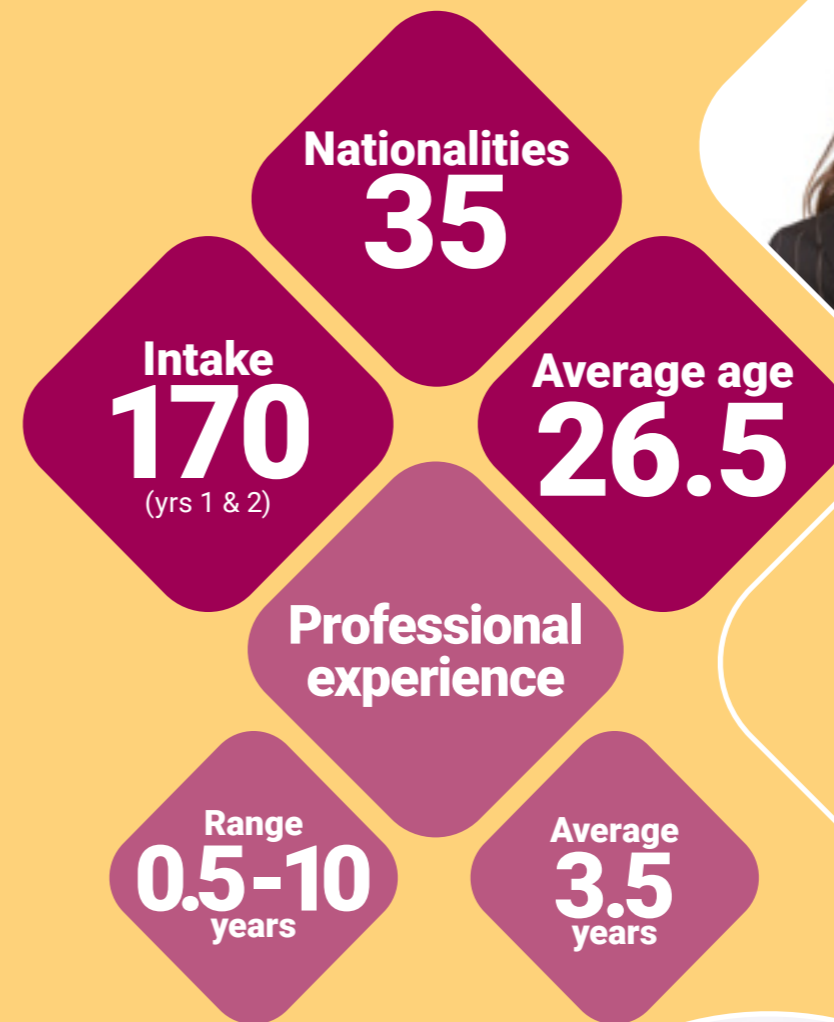
Programme Highlights

The two-year programme provides a multi-disciplinary approach which combines rigorous academic training with practical applications to policy. MPA students not only learn in-depth knowledge and skills, but also benefit from the time and flexibility to discover and explore their own paths and key areas of interest by pursuing specialisms in topics such as international development, social impact, inequality, poverty, international political economy, and economic policy.

Throughout their first year of study MPA students explore economic concepts and methods and develop skills for quantitative evaluation of policies, whilst also delving into the behaviour of political actors including the study of voting, political parties, interest groups, corruption and democratisation.

The MPA Capstone Project, in year two of the programme, continues to be a key highlight of the programme. Our students put their academic learnings into action by addressing a real-world policy problem with external clients including the United Nations, FCDO, PLAN International and UNICEF. This year our students addressed a range of pressing issues around the world including topics relating to the Colombian economy, the climate in South Africa, public transport in London and the NHS workforce.

MPA in Numbers



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The Capstone Project was stimulating and challenging, it required close collaboration as a team to make the most of the project and achieve the quality of results we expected. The experience provided me invaluable insights into real-world professional dynamics, simulating the complexities of the job environment. It was an invigorating rehearsal before re-entering the job market.

Nashla Manzur Aranda,
MPA Class of 2024



MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY (MPP)

A Message from MPP Programme Director, Dr Simon Bastow

The MPP continues to challenge professionals to become more equipped, astute, and confident in the understanding and practicing of the 'craft of government'. Throughout the intensive 9-month programme our diverse cohort of policy professionals develop transferable skills alongside a global network of peers. This gives them the space to reflect on their career trajectory, explore possible new horizons, and prepare to use their studies to tackle the big public policy problems of today and tomorrow.

Programme Highlights

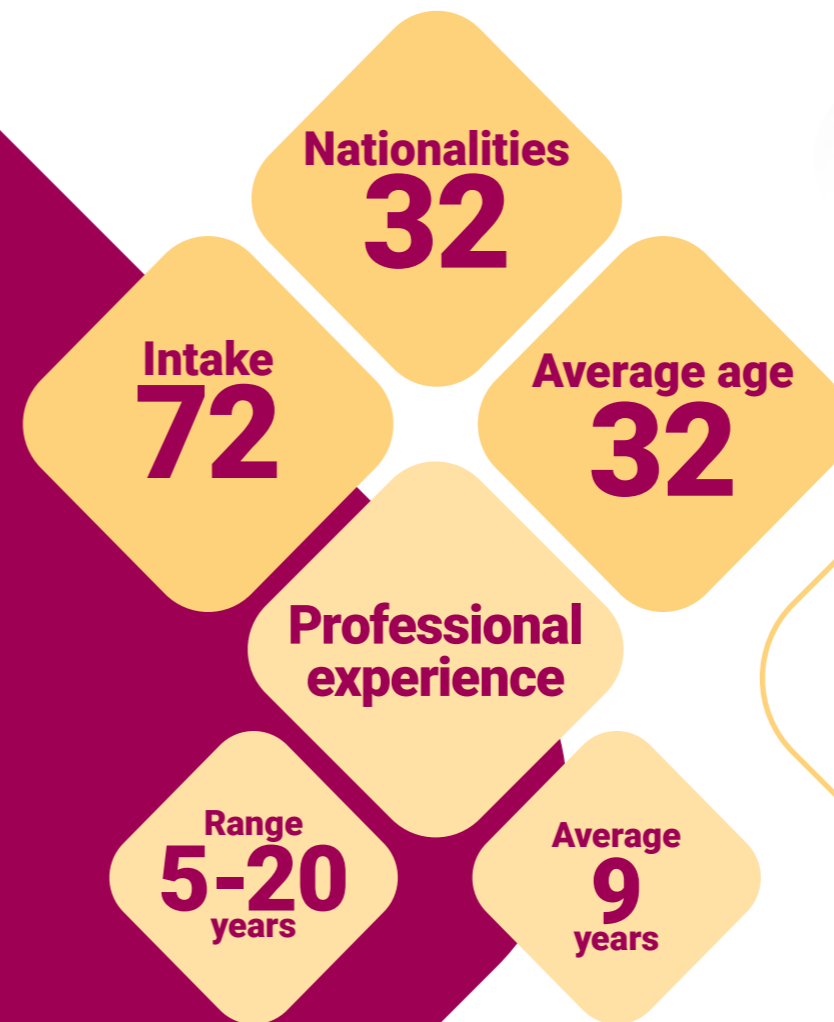
The 9-month programme provides professionals with a unique understanding of the complex challenges of contemporary governance across core disciplines including political science, quantitative methods, economics, public management and philosophy.

The MPP 'Craft of Government' Symposium marks a key moment in the MPP programme and is an opportunity for students to showcase their Public Policy Applications projects which are a culmination of over five months of collaborative research and analysis in conjunction with external organisations.

The Symposium, held in late May, brought together students, faculty, expert guests and alumni to hear our student groups present their projects, which tackled real policy problems such as energy transition, homelessness, climate change, use of AI and healthcare, which are impacting communities around the world.

Placing an emphasis on understanding policy in practice, this year our MPP students have also benefitted from exploring the approaches to current policy challenges during visits to companies and establishments including Meta, the Royal Courts of Justice, Houses of Parliament and 10 Downing Street.

MPP in Numbers



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The best thing to me is that the SPP provides unparalleled access to worldclass professors, remarkable course mates with decades of experience in different fields, and heads of state, senior leaders and academics who visit London and choose to stop by LSE for a talk with students. It's truly a privilege to be in the centre of action where a lot of these exchanges of knowledge happen so frequently.

Linh Tran,
MPP Class of 2024



MPA IN DATA SCIENCE FOR PUBLIC POLICY (MPA-DSPP)

A Message from MPA-DSPP Programme Director, Professor Alexander Evans

This highly competitive degree programme explores how we can utilise our increasingly vast data footprint to improve public services, decision-making and governance. I am delighted to welcome our first cohort to LSE SPP and work together to analyse and address pressing policy challenges in an increasingly complex and data-driven world.



Programme Highlights

In August 2023 we welcomed our first intake of MPA in Data Science for Public Policy (MPA-DSPP) students. Throughout the two-year programme, students benefit from a rigorous, interdisciplinary approach to public policy that tackles policy challenges through a data science lens.

The cohort commenced their studies with a dedicated pre-session coding bootcamp to learn foundational packages in Python programming and key concepts in mathematics, before delving into rigorous training in econometrics and quantitative tools, data science, political science and economics as part of their first year studies.

In their second year, students will have the opportunity to bring qualitative, quantitative and coding skills together to work on a real-world policy problem with and external client as part of the MPA-DSPP Capstone.

MPA-DSPP in Numbers



I strongly believe that data is a social good shaping the future of policy design and decision-making, and that we are entering a new era of making use of classic and modern forms of data when we address global issues.

Camelia Abdelgelil,
MPA-DSPP Class of 2025



EXECUTIVE PROGRAMMES (EMPA & EMPP)

A Message from Executive Programme Co-Directors, Professor Sir Charles Bean and Dr Daniel Berliner

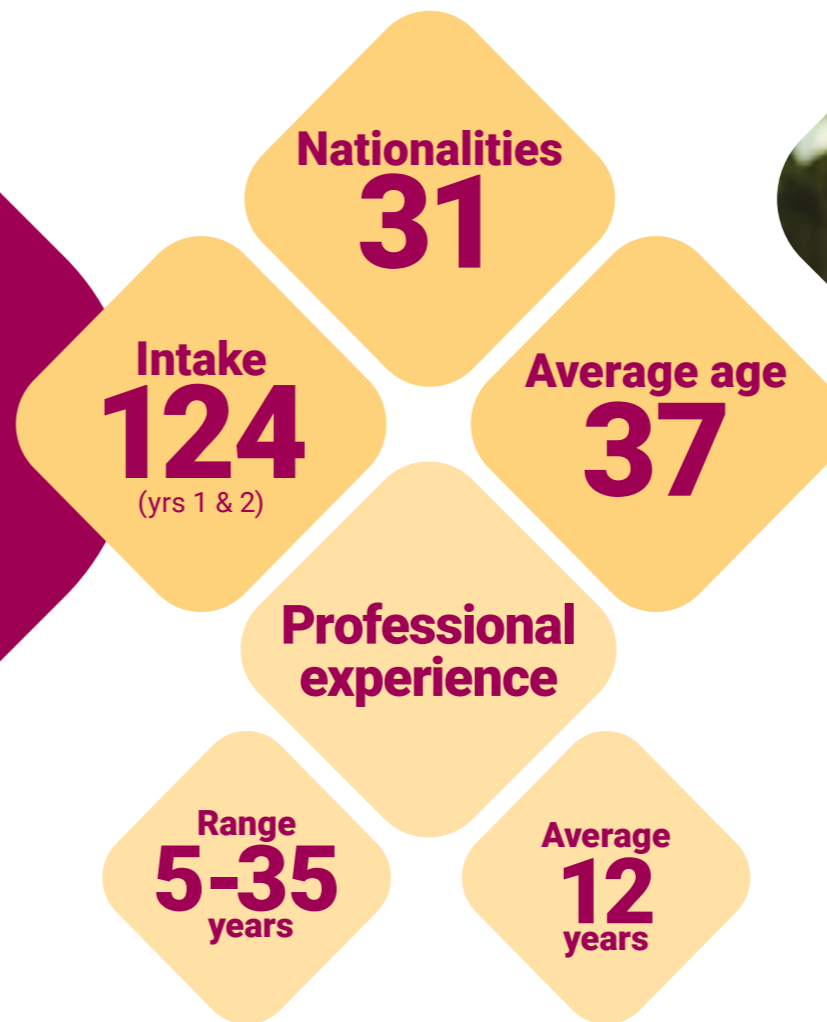
Our executive masters degrees continue to attract high quality professionals who through the programmes develop an outstanding network of friends and contacts destined to be future leaders in governments, institutions, and private businesses around the world. December 2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the start of the EMPA, and over this period diversity has been a key feature, with 71 nationalities and more than 20 industry sectors represented. In addition, the EMPP that we have delivered since 2015 for the UK civil service policy profession continues to prosper with 16 different major government departments represented in the 2023 entry cohort.



“After each class, I felt a bit smarter, a bit more thoughtful, and a bit more empowered to make a meaningful impact.”

Dina Kamal,
EMPA Class of 2015

EMPA & EMPP in Numbers



“LSE is definitely a place where you will learn, connect with like-minded people and develop initiatives that can change the rules of the game.”

Marcel Fukayama,
EMPA Class of 2017



MPA DOUBLE DEGREES

A Message from Double Degrees Programme Director, Professor Vanessa Rubio-Márquez

Our double degree students are a truly special cohort who benefit from the opportunity to explore and develop their passion for public policy whilst studying at two of the world's most highly regarded public policy schools in two global cities.



To get an idea of how politics works, not just in two countries, but in two different dynamic developed regions of the world, also provides you with a bigger world view of what you can do, not just back home, but anywhere in the world.

Aditya Datta,
LSE-University of Toronto
MPA/MGA Double Degree
Class of 2025



Our global partnerships



LSE-University of Toronto
MPA/MGA Double Degree



LSE-Columbia University
MPA Double Degree



LSE-Sciences Po
MPP/MPA Double Degree



Average age

25

Nationalities

15

Intake

46

MPA Double Degrees in Numbers

SCHOLARSHIPS



The School of Public Policy is pleased to continue to offer a range of scholarship opportunities for SPP students. Our current offerings support passionate policy scholars from Africa, Asia and South America.

This year we welcomed our first intake of Peruvian Scholars for Public Service. Six outstanding scholars were selected to study at the SPP based on their demonstration of academic excellence, their commitment to public service and their potential to become a future expert and leader in their field, and to generate positive change for Peru.

In addition, we were delighted to welcome our fourth intake of Luksic Scholars, supported by the Luksic Foundation who provide quality opportunities to the inhabitants of all regions of Chile, as well as our Hosh Ibrahim African Scholars and our scholars based in Asia who are supported by the David and Duncan Clark Scholarship.

Our MPP programme also celebrated welcoming an exceptional group of 15 Chevening Scholars. The group represent 12 nationalities and were selected by Chevening for demonstrating the passion and ideas to provide the solutions and leadership needed to create a better future.



STUDENT LIFE



15
Professional Skills sessions

16
Expert guest speakers

9
Alumni career panels

12
Student society events

3
Student policy competitions

Turner MBA Impact Investing Network & Training (MIINT)

The MBA Impact Investing Network & Training (MIINT) is an experiential impact investing programme, which gives students the opportunity to engage in sourcing and conducting due diligence on real-world, early-stage impact investment opportunities. This year, our students joined more than 600 students from around the globe at the final competition, hosted by Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. They pitched their chosen start-up, Ocean Oasis, a seed-stage climate tech startup from Norway, to the expert Turner MIINT Investment Committee, which represents leaders in impact investing, community development and venture capital from around the world.



Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) Conference

Associate Dean Tony Travers and SPP students joined participants from policy schools around the world at the annual Global Public Policy Network (GPPN) conference, hosted this year by Sciences Po in Paris. Five student teams represented the SPP and pursued projects which addressed a range of global policy issues through *'policy proposals to reduce the impact of climate change on vulnerable population and territory'*, in line with this year's conference theme. A special congratulations to María Fernanda Delgado Alva, Bruno Chereque Lizarzaburu and Angelo Leone, whose project on *'Boosting the adoption of drought-tolerant seeds among smallholder farmers in Zimbabwe'* made it through to the final round of the conference.

Policy in Practice

Experts from the policy world share their experiences with SPP students as part of the Policy in Practice seminars and Dean's Dialogue series which run throughout the academic year. This year, topics and guest speakers have included:

- 'How generative AI is transforming business and society' hosted by Lisa Quest, who leads Oliver Wyman's Public Sector Practice in the UK and Ireland.
- 'Relevance of independent and technical information for policy-making' hosted by Paloma Merodio, Vice President of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography INEGI (Mexico).
- 'Sustainable Finance' hosted by Manuel Antunes, VC Investor at Triple Point.
- 'Crises and Resilience: a practitioner perspective' hosted by Rosehanna Chowdhury, Senior Director in the Department for Levelling Up, and member of the advisory board for the international publication 'The Crisis Response Journal'.

Professional Skills Accelerator

As part of the SPP Professional Skills Accelerator (PSA), students benefit from a variety of concentrated, day-long sessions hosted by a professional expert to help to bridge the gap between theory and effective practice.

This year, we hosted fifteen PSA sessions with expert speakers on key topics such as:

- Leadership
- Data visualisation
- Networking skills
- Interview skills
- Negotiation
- Practical career guidance




Student Networks

The Association of Public Policy Students (APPS) has continued to connect and support the SPP community and coordinate social activities including a SPP Gala event at the end of the Winter Term.

The SPP Womxn's Network has continued to advocate for the advancement and empowerment of all students within the SPP by promoting further representation within policymaking and creating a safe space for discussions including breakfast Q&As with internal and external speakers, panel events, and quiz nights.

The SPP's student-led Public Sphere Journal for Public Policy (PSJ) celebrated the publication of its 12th edition under the theme of "Inclusive Governance and Diversity in Policy".

 **Learn more about studying at the SPP at**
lse.ac.uk/spp/study

ALUMNI



The School of Public Policy alumni community continues to grow in both size and strength. We can now boast of over 2,300 alumni in our community – and, with the first cohort of MPA-Data Science for Public Policy students and Science Po-MPA Double Degree students having joined us this Autumn Term, we look forward to seeing our community flourish in the future.

This year our alumni enjoyed seventeen events, both in-person and virtual, which included networking receptions, professional development seminars, policy discussions and alumni socials. We have been delighted to see alumni continuing to give back their time and energy to our community through a variety of volunteering initiatives. Alumni regularly get involved with our ongoing mentorship programme, career Q&A events, and with initiatives to connect one-on-one with students seeking career advice. Overall this year alumni volunteered over 450 hours speaking to students alone, and volunteered 500 hours of their time in person.

The wonderful atmosphere of the SPP is due in no small part to our alumni's participation and support. We are delighted to have them as part of our community, and look forward to welcoming them back to the SPP for many years to come.



SPP ALUMNI SYMPOSIUM

This academic year we have been marking a series of anniversaries at the SPP: celebrating the 20th graduating cohort of the MPA and the 10th graduating cohort of the Executive MPA (EMPA). To celebrate the occasion with our alumni and students we held a special symposium on *'The Year of Elections: Public Policy in the Face of Changing Governments'*.

This event was an afternoon of examining the various elections of 2024 and their potential results, as well as unpicking how public policy professionals can navigate the inevitable shifts in the workplace that come with a changing government. We heard from academic experts in international politics and policy professionals from various governments, and concluded with a keynote speech examining the origins of the SPP by Emeritus Professor Patrick Dunleavy. Alumni and students finished the day with a drinks reception in the LSE Centre Building, and a chance to meet some new connections amongst the SPP community.



ALUMNI MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

The SPP Alumni Mentorship Programme has just completed its second year, with feedback being overwhelmingly positive from both alumni and student participants. In the 2023/24 academic year we matched over a hundred alumni and students based on their professional interests and career goals. Our mentors have a wide variety of professional paths: from MEPs' offices and the policy departments of national banks to sustainability consultancies and self-employed professional coaches. During the year they engaged with our students sharing their professional insights and providing them with advice to support their career journey.

The SPP mentorship programme was a great opportunity to connect with the next generation of policy leaders. It was a rewarding experience to learn from the experiences, knowledge and passions of my mentee, while also being able to provide advice from my time during the MPA and post-MPA.

Samantha Piller,
MPA Class of 2023



I am immensely grateful for the guidance I received from my mentor. Our sessions have been incredibly insightful, helping me build confidence and navigate the complexities of starting a professional career in the UK.

Bakhtiyar M Salmanov,
MPA Class of 2024

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Yomna Gaafar named as one of Forbes Middle East's '30 Under 30'

SPP alumna Yomna Gaafar (MPA, 2022) was named as one of Forbes Middle East's '30 Under 30'. This award celebrates Yomna for her work as an Economic Analyst at the IMF's Fiscal Affairs Department: recognising her work in social impact helping governments and policymakers use digital tools to develop their economies.



”

The experiences I had at the SPP, particularly where the emphasis is placed on the convergence of data, technology, and policy, have been pivotal in both my career progression and in shaping my vision for transformative public and economic policy.

Yomna Gaafar,
MPA Class of 2022



Pragya Tiwari EMPA Class of 2018

Co-Founder and Creative Director of Oijo, a consultancy based in India and operating globally

“The consultancy I now run combines my experience with journalism, politics and culture, but without the EMPA a crucial piece would have been missing. The intellectual excitement and invigoration I felt in my time at the LSE gave me the impetus to reimagine what my future could hold.”

Matt Billet MPA Class of 2020

Sustainable Finance Analyst at Moody's

“I left the LSE with an understanding and knowledge base of sustainable finance and with a highly transferrable evidence-based policymaking skillset. I'm extremely grateful to have learned from such a diverse network of faculty, practitioners and classmates that further enriched the experience.”



Bernardita Molina MPP Class of 2022

Associate at the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change

“Moving forward, my dedication remains unwavering: to use my expertise to tackle policy challenges alongside governments, but ultimately, to return to Chile fueled by the diverse experiences gained globally, ready to contribute to positive change in my homeland.”

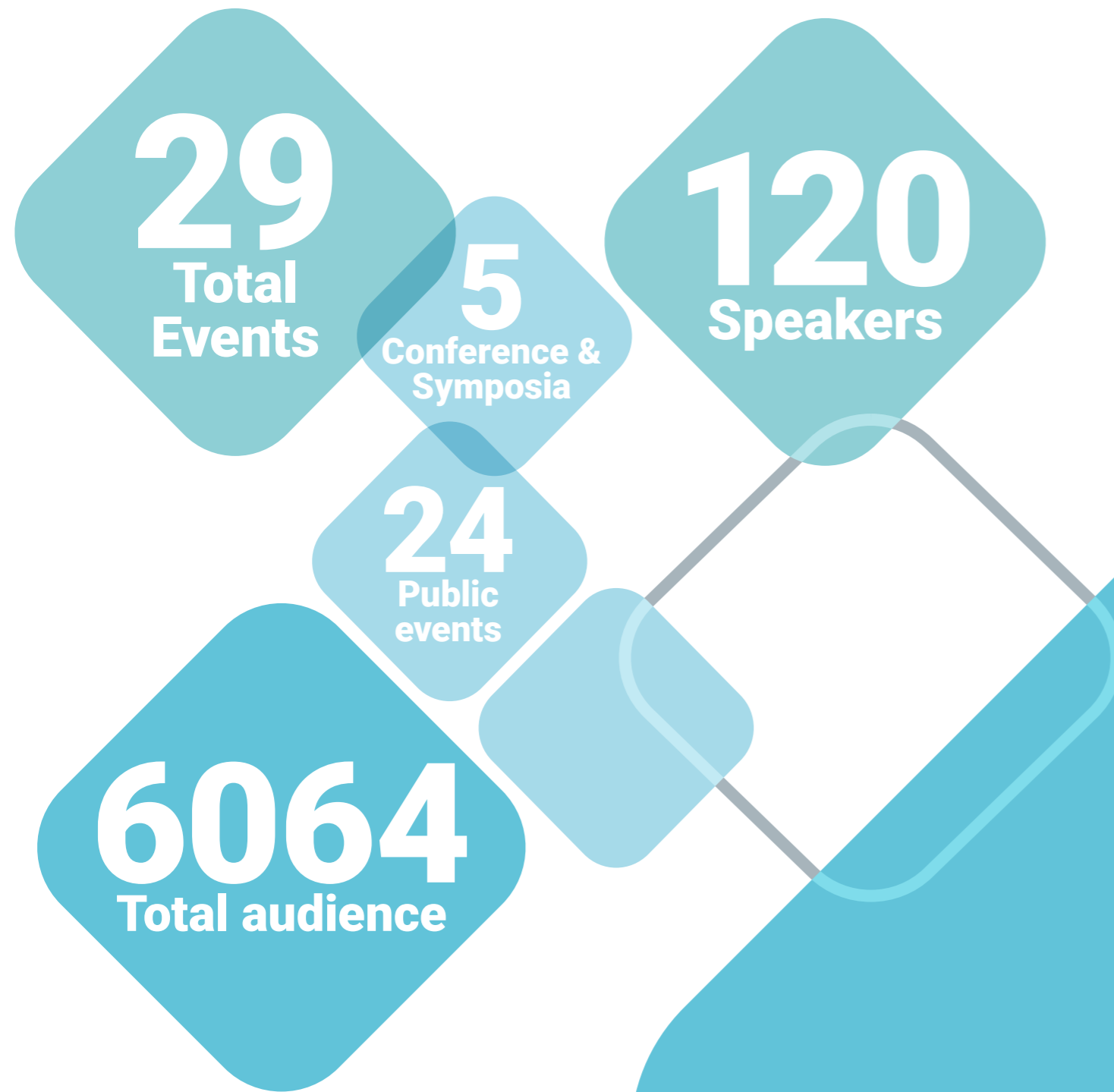


 Learn more about our alumni community at lse.ac.uk/spp/alumni



EVENTS

The SPP hosts a diverse programme of public and private events encompassing a broad range of public policy topics, with both a national and international focus. Our events offer a platform for debate and bring together experts and high-level speakers from politics, public administration, academia, and the media.



CHINA AND INDIA: THE ASIAN SUPERPOWERS

Sir Vince Cable, Visiting Professor in Practice at the SPP, convened and made the introductory presentations in a series of four public lectures under the theme *China and India: The Asian Superpowers*.

The first event of the series, "China and India: economic fall and rise?", focused on long-term growth prospects with presentations by Dr Keyu Jin (LSE) and Dr Rathin Roy (ODI). It was followed by an event titled, "China, India and the Global Order (or Disorder)", which dealt with the global governance implications of the emergence of powerful new global players with Professor Niall Ferguson (LSE School of Public Policy) and Dr Rebecca Nadin (ODI). The environmental and climate change impact, as well as policy contributions, of China and India were addressed by Professor Lord Nicholas Stern (LSE) and journalist Isabel Hilton (China Dialogue Trust) in a panel titled "Climate, Net Zero and the Asian Superstates". The series concluded with "Governing States: China and India", a discussion of models of governance with Professors Mukulika Banerjee (LSE) and Kerry Brown (Kings College London).

 Learn more about our public events programme at lse.ac.uk/spp/events

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Shaping Major Cities: The Challenge of Being a Mayor

Marvin Rees OBE, Mayor of Bristol, addressed the lessons around how to represent, lead and shape a city, how to balance short-term priorities with long-term vision and strategy and what does central government need to learn about public policy and city services from the sharp end. Running and shaping cities is among the most complex and challenging areas of public policy. What is it like to be a mayor? The event was chaired by Professor Alexander Evans OBE.



The Transition Paradox: Navigating the Path to Becoming the World's First Fossil-Free Welfare State

Mikael Damberg, Sweden's former Finance Minister, shared his insights on how Sweden can navigate the intricate path to becoming the world's first fossil-free welfare state. He explores ways to move towards a greener, more sustainable future that benefits everyone. The event was chaired by Professor Andrés Velasco.



Changing the Status Quo: Data and Radical Transformation at the Heart of Government

Laura Gilbert, Visiting Professor in Practice at the LSE School of Public Policy, Director of Data Science in Number 10 Downing Street, and joint Chief Analyst for the Cabinet Office, joined us for this public event to celebrate the launch of the MPA in Data Science for Public Policy programme. Dr Gilbert shared her experiences of data, analysis, innovation, and adventures in rapid prototyping in central government and discussed the potential benefits in unlocking government data, and how to achieve it. The event was chaired by Professor Alexander Evans OBE.



Connecting Academics to Policy: A Conversation with New York Fed President John C Williams

John C. Williams, President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and LSE alumnus, discussed the intersection of academics, research, and policy as well as monetary policy challenges, inflation, and how research informs policy decisions. The event was chaired by Professor Ricardo Reis.





RESEARCH

HOW DID
BRITAIN
COME TO
THIS?

A century
of systemic
failures of
governance

The UK'S CHANGING
DEMOCRACY

The 2018 Democratic Audit

Edited by
Patrick Dunleavy,
Alice Park
and Ros Taylor

If You're So
Ethical,
Why Are You So
Highly Paid?

Ethics, Inequality and Executive Pay

LSE-FUDAN GLOBAL PUBLIC POLICY HUB

The LSE-Fudan Global Public Policy Hub promotes collaborative research on global public policy, fostering multidisciplinary cooperation and enhancing communication between Fudan University and LSE to produce impactful research. In 2023/24, the Hub organised several events and activities, which included its Annual Conference, the China and the World Seminar Series, as well as a “China Day for PhD Researchers” and the book launch of “Getting Schools to Work Better: Insights and Reflections from China and India” by Dr Yifei Yan (University of Southampton).



LSE-Fudan Annual Conference 2023

The LSE-Fudan Global Public Policy Hub hosted its Annual Conference at the LSE on 21-22 November 2023. Welcome remarks were given by Professor Susana Mourato, Professor JIN Li, Professor Bingchun Meng, and Professor Yijia Jing. The conference served as a dynamic platform for exploring critical public policy issues across borders, enhancing multidisciplinary cooperation, and fostering robust communication between Fudan University and LSE. The two-day event explored the following topics: economic policy and technology governance; climate change governance; health care and health policy; and demography and social policy.

Fudan University President Visits LSE

Professor JIN Li, President of Fudan University led a university delegation visiting the LSE campus on 21 November 2023. The presidential delegation was received by LSE, Professor Eric Neumayer, LSE Vice President. At the SPP, Associate Dean Professor Tony Travers welcomed the delegation and members of the two universities discussed the Hub’s activities and future areas of collaboration.



China and the World Seminar Series

The “China and the World Seminar Series” serves as a vibrant platform for prominent academics to explore critical issues in public policy research spanning China and beyond. This year’s seminars explored topics such as fast urbanism, rural development, and urban climate governance, facilitating insightful discussions among LSE students and staff.

 **Learn more at**
www.lse.ac.uk/fudan

GROWTH CO-LAB AT LSE

The Growth Co-Lab at LSE, in collaboration with the Harvard Growth Lab, combines policy expertise and academic research in the pursuit of growth-enhancing economic policies around the world. It brings together practitioners and economists to design and evaluate policies that can generate inclusive prosperity.



Richard Davies Joins as New Director

Richard Davies, a leading economist and author, joined the Growth-Co Lab as its new director alongside his role of Professor in Practice at the SPP. He is the founding director of the UK's Economics Observatory, holds a chair as the Professor of the Public Understanding of Economics at Bristol University and is a visiting Professor at the LSE Centre for Economic Performance. Under his leadership, the Growth Co-Lab has expanded its policy research to address relevant topics around the UK economy, leveraging its partnership with the Economics Observatory.



Launch of the Growth Diagnostic of Mozambique

The Growth Co-Lab launched the Growth Diagnostic of Mozambique in April 2024, a project that provided an analysis of the economy of the country, assessing its growth trajectory, current productive capabilities, and opportunities for strategic diversification. The research team developed a coherent policy plan and made recommendations to accelerate Mozambique's inclusive growth, which have been taken on board by the Mozambican government authorities. The study was commissioned by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and was completed in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, USAID, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the African Development Bank.

Macroeconomic Modelling Review

In December 2023, the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) commissioned the Growth Co-Lab and the Economics Observatory to provide an in-depth summary of the UK's macroeconomic modelling landscape, as part of its regular review of this area. The study explores opportunities to improve macroeconomic modelling by examining the current models used by the principal UK forecasting institutions such as the Bank of England, HM Treasury and International Monetary Fund (IMF). The review suggests areas where the UK can make strategic investments to push the frontier of macroeconomic research, focusing on standardisation of forecast and forecast evaluations, improved data consistency and computing power, and building a stronger macroeconomic modelling and research community.



 **Learn more at**
www.lse.ac.uk/growth

LSE CITIES

LSE Cities is an international research and educational centre that explores how cities are governed, managed and planned. This year, it expanded its activities to investigate core themes that impact on cities around the world: just and sustainable urban transitions; urban democracy; technology and hybrid space; as well as health and well-being. The team has been working on 15 new research programmes, taken part in over 120 events and published over 100 articles in journals, books and reports. Alongside more traditional academic research, its staff have curated exhibitions, produced films, led the design of a public space for young people in London, and even created a card game to help urban planning.



European Cities Research Programme

By extending its investigation on cities across Europe, the centre is providing new insights into government innovation in different sectors of urban management and service delivery. Working with Eurocities – Europe’s leading urban network work – and Bloomberg Philanthropies, LSE Cities has carried out surveys and in-depth studies on how city administrations are delivering innovation capacity to respond to critical challenges including climate change, democracy and inclusion. A British Academy grant has been received to expand the centre’s work around post-growth cities to investigate the cultural politics of mobility transitions in Barcelona and London.

MyFairShare

Supported by an ESRC/Urban Europe grant, this research project builds on the concept of sufficiency principles to change mobility habits. The project is founded on three core principals. Firstly, that to effectively address the challenge of transport emissions, we need a completely new perspective. Secondly, that fairness must be a fundamental value of transport systems. And thirdly, that systemic change requires addressing not only the modes we use but also the reasons why we move. LSE Cities worked closely with a consortium of partners across Europe, collaborated with colleagues and students across the LSE.



Urban95 Academy

First launched in 2021 by LSE Cities and the Van Leer Foundation, the Urban95 Academy leadership programme was recently extended to 2027 providing future training and support for a further 300 cities and 900 city leaders. Open to city officials across the world, the Academy supports municipalities to understand how their work can positively impact the lives of young children and families. Academy participants learn how they can effectively deliver better services for everyone by reimagining urban policies, programmes and places that put babies, toddlers, and caregivers at the centre. Over the last years, it has trained over 600 city leaders from nearly 200 cities.

 Learn more at
www.lse.ac.uk/cities

LSE PUBLIC POLICY REVIEW

The LSE Public Policy Review is an open-access, peer-reviewed journal launched in 2020 as a vehicle to share outstanding LSE research. Issues are thematic and concentrate on key topics at the heart of current debates in public policy.

Russia's War in Ukraine and the Future of the Global Order

LSE Press published a book edited by Michael Cox on "Russia's War in Ukraine and the Future of the Global Order". The volume examines the deep causes of Putin's war, the role played by other actors such as China and the United States, the severe consequences for the many millions of displaced Ukrainians, the impact on the West and the Global South, and the challenges confronting Ukraine when the war finally comes to an end. The book was also published as an LSEPPR issue which was launched with a public event on Monday 2 October.



"AI and Data Science in Public Policy" Symposium

In May 2024, LSEPPR hosted the "AI and Data Science in Public Policy" symposium. This was the programme's first collaboration with the LSE Data Science Institute. The symposium explored future directions, applications, and consequences of the use of AI in policymaking across a range of areas - from law to health policy, education and politics. The resulting issue will be published in the 2024 Autumn Term.

Changing Labour Markets and the Future of Social Protection

In May 2024, LSEPPR hosted the "AI and Data Science in Public Policy" symposium. This was the programme's first collaboration with the LSE Data Science Institute. The symposium explored future directions, applications, and consequences of the use of AI in policymaking across a range of areas - from law to health policy, education and politics. The resulting issue will be published in the 2024 Autumn Term.



 Learn more at www.lse.ac.uk/spp/LSEPPR

PUBLIC SPHERE JOURNAL

This year, the SPP community celebrated the publication of The Public Sphere Journal (PSJ)'s 12th edition, under the theme of "Inclusive Governance and Diversity in Policy". The journal is produced by SPP students and offers contributors and readers the opportunity to critically analyse important policy challenges our world is facing today. This edition of the PSJ includes features from SPP faculty and students who tackle pressing issues, including domestic abuse prevention policy, personal data-oversharing on SNS, and worker rights in India.

To celebrate its publication, our community joined expert panel members, including SPP Associate Dean Tony Travers, Professor Adnan Khan, as well as PSJ contributors Claire Wilson and Isabel Blackburn, at a special launch event. The panel and audience engaged in an insightful discussion about the current barriers and innovative approaches to equitable policy in relation to gender, religion, location and global regions.

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The papers embody rigorous research, insightful analyses, and innovative approaches to inclusive governance.

Vaidehi Jha,
Editor-in Chief
(PSJ 2023/24)



THE PUBLIC SPHERE

JOURNAL OF PUBLIC POLICY
2024

 Learn more about the Public Sphere Journal at psj.lse.ac.uk

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Professor Tony Travers

Professor in Practice, Associate Dean of the School of Public Policy

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Professor in Practice, Associate Dean for Extended Education

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Visiting Professor

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Visiting Professor in Practice

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Beveridge 2.0 Programme Co-ordinator and Managing Editor of the LSE Public Policy Review

SUPPORT FOR THE SPP

The support from our alumni and friends is immensely appreciated by everyone at the School of Public Policy, helping us to keep our community strong and to introduce new opportunities to our students.

Our thanks go out to everyone who has supported us through donating their time volunteering with our students and providing them with much needed advice – you are helping us keep the SPP a fantastic place to learn.

We would also like to take this time to recognise those in our community who have supported the SPP through financial donations. The ongoing generosity of such supporters helps our institution thrive and enables us to find new ways of supporting new generations of scholars and policy leaders. Our donors enable us to make wonderful things happen, and everyone from the SPP community would like to extend their thanks to our donors for their generosity.

We would like to thank and recognise the friends of the SPP who made a financial donation over the 2023/24 financial year:


- Bloomberg Philanthropies
- David Heleniak
- Duncan L. Clark, OBE
- LSE Cities donations
- Microsoft
- Mr Aaron Seybert
- Mr Hosh Ibrahim
- Mr Manuel Barreiro Castañeda
- The Centre for Development and Enterprise
- The Vallum Foundation, as coordinated by the Luksic Foundation





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