



School of
Public Policy



ANNUAL REPORT

2020
21

Dean's Introduction

Dear members of the SPP community,

What a year this has been!

The pandemic required deep changes in the way postgraduate education is conceived and delivered. At times during the 2020-21 academic year, at the SPP we were in full crisis mode, working hard to guarantee the safety and wellbeing of our students, faculty and professional staff; helping students get to the UK and the return home when the time came; redesigning courses, changing modes of delivery, and rethinking how we assess student performance; and constantly reviewing what are the key components of a useful public policy education.

It was a challenging year. But from conversations with many members of the SPP community I know that we managed not only to survive, but also to thrive in adversity. The old saying that any crisis is an opportunity that should not go to waste is relevant here. During this pandemic year we learned important lessons about who we are, how we best work together, and how to make the SPP even stronger than it already is.

The first thing we learned – as did many other communities, regions and nations throughout the planet – is that we can accomplish a great deal when we work together. Lockdowns reminded us of the importance of human contact; the work that needed to be done during lockdowns confirmed the key role of human cooperation in getting important things done.

As a community of scholars and practitioners of public policy, we note one thing we already knew, and that the pandemic confirmed: the quality of public policies and public institutions makes a huge difference for human welfare. Nations with good policies and able leaders were able to save uncounted lives and livelihoods. Not all nations were so lucky, however. That experience has confirmed our belief in the importance of our mission as a school: to train a new generation of policy leaders, and to help them develop all the skills they need to do the job well.

LSE scholars played a remarkable role in mobilising social science research to help craft the policy response to the pandemic. In last year's report we told you how the School of Public Policy launched a new blog focused on COVID-19; convened a public events series involving current and former heads of state, scientists, activists and leading policymakers from around the world; and put together a resource-centre containing all the relevant research carried out by LSE colleagues and their associates.



“ The LSE School of Public Policy prepares the policy and political leaders of tomorrow to transform people and societies. ”

It was all a reminder of the extraordinary quality and breadth of the policy-oriented work produced by LSE faculty. In the months since, many of our colleagues and others from around LSE have gone on to advise governments and international organisations on the best policies to rebuild after the pandemic, putting all that academic research to the best practical use possible.

Other lessons from the pandemic we are still digesting. Over the last 18 months we all learned that some activities that once would have required an expensive (and polluting) trip abroad can now be accomplished via a digital connection; and that certain kinds of teaching that had only been done in person could now be delivered in hybrid mode. What this all means for the future balance between working from home and in the office, or for onsite versus distance learning, is something that I and other SPP colleagues look forward to discussing with you and with members of our community in months to come.

Of course, COVID is neither the first nor will it be the last global crisis of the 21st century. Climate change, loss of biodiversity, scarcity of water, authoritarian populism, human rights violations, job insecurity, disinformation and fake news, cyber threats – the list of actual and potential catastrophes is both long and sobering. In preventing or confronting those threats, good governance and sound policies will be as key as ever. And so will be a high-quality public policy education, of the kind we work hard to deliver at LSE.

Warm regards,



**Professor Andrés Velasco,
Dean of the School of Public Policy**



A circular inset image showing a modern lecture hall. A lecturer in a dark suit is standing on the left, pointing at a large projection screen. The room is filled with students seated at long, light-colored desks, many with laptops open. The ceiling features several white, dome-shaped pendant lights and a projector. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source being the projector and the ambient room lighting. The circular inset is set against a background of a red-tinted, semi-transparent image of the same lecture hall, which is also overlaid with a white dashed circular border.

OUR FACULTY

OUR FACULTY

SPP Staff 2020-2021

Academic Leadership

Professor Andrés Velasco

Dean

Professor Adnan Khan

Academic Director and Professor in Practice

Professor Tony Travers

Associate Dean

Dr Sara Hagemann

Associate Dean for Extended Education; Associate Professor in European Politics

Dr Babken Babajanian

Associate Professorial Lecturer; MPA Programme Director

Professor Daniel Sturm

Professor of Economics; EMPA/EMPP Programme Director

Dr Simon Bastow

Assistant Professorial Lecturer; MPP Programme Director

Professor Dilly Fung

Professor in Practice; LSE Pro-Director for Education

Teaching Faculty

Dr Andrea Alati

Teaching Fellow

Professor Nava Ashraf

Professor of Economics

Professor Oriana Bandiera

Professor of Economics

Professor Nicholas Barr

Professor of Public Economics

Professor Sir Tim Besley

School Professor of Economics and Political Science

Professor Gwyn Bevan

Emeritus Professor of Economics

Dr Gharad Bryan

Lecturer in Economics

Professor Robin Burgess

Professor of Economics

Professor Francesco Caselli

Norman Sosnow Professor of Economics

OUR FACULTY

SPP Staff 2020-2021

Professor Stephan Chambers

Professor in Practice; Director, Marshall Institute

Professor Torun Dewan

Professor of Political Science

Dr Jeremiah Dittmar

Lecturer in Economics

Tim Dobermann

Teaching Fellow

Dr Mathilde Emeriau

Assistant Professor in Empirical Political Economy

Dr Tasha Fairfield

Assistant Professor in International Development

Dr Barbara Fasolo

Associate Professor of Behavioural Science

Professor Conor Gearty

Professor in Human Rights

Professor Sir Julian Le Grand

Professor of Social Policy

Dr Lloyd Gruber

Assistant Professor of Political Economy of Development

Dr Rafael Hortala-Vallve

Associate Professor of Political Science and Public Policy

Dr Ethan Ilzetzki

Lecturer in Economics

Dr Ryan Jablonski

Assistant Professor in Political Science

Professor Stephen Jenkins

Professor of Economic and Social Policy

Dr Chelsea Johnson

LSE Fellow in Political Science and Public Policy

Professor Adnan Khan

Professor in Practice

Professor Camille Landais

Associate Professor of Economics

Professor Martin Lodge

Professor of Political Science and Public Policy

Dr Rachael McLellan

LSE Fellow in Political Science and Public Policy

Professor Geoffrey Myers

Visiting Professor

Frank Muci

Policy Fellow

Dr Joana Naritomi

Assistant Professor

OUR FACULTY

SPP Staff 2020-2021

Professor Michael Otsuka

Professor of Philosophy

Professor Henry Overman

Professor of Economic Geography

Dr Berkay Ozcan

Associate Professor of Social Policy

Dr Jonathan Parry

Assistant Professor

Dr Daniel Reck

Assistant Professor of Economics

Dr Jonathan Roberts

Senior Lecturer in Practice

Dr Lewis Ross

LSE Fellow

Vanessa Rubio-Marquez

Professor in Practice

Kilian Russ

Teaching Fellow

Professor Mark Schankerman

Professor of Economics

Dr Johannes Spinnewijn

Associate Professor of Economics

Dr Johanna Thoma

Associate Professor

Professor Alex Voorhoeve

Professor

Dr Joachim Wehner

Associate Professor in Public Policy

Visiting Faculty

Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable

Visiting Professor in Practice

Hugh Cole

Visiting Professor in Practice

Dr Greg Fischer

Visiting Professor in Practice

Professor Ricardo Hausmann

Visiting Professor in Practice

Ousmène Jacques Mandeng

Visiting Fellow

Lant Pritchett

Visiting Professor in Practice

OUR FACULTY

News



Daniel Sturm was awarded a major research grant by the European Research Council (ERC) to study the economics of cities. The ERC Advanced Grant will provide a budget of £1.6m for the 2021-2026 project 'Quantitative Models of Cities', which will develop economic models of how firms and residents compete over limited space in cities and how this competition shapes the productivity and residential amenities of city neighbourhoods and the flow of commuters.



Nava Ashraf, Oriana Bandiera and colleagues were awarded the 29th Kenneth J. Arrow Award, which recognises excellence in the field of health economics. The rewarded paper, 'Losing Prosociality in the Quest for Talent? Sorting, Selection, and Productivity in the Delivery of Public Services', investigates whether career benefits for health workers attract talent at the expense of prosocial motivation in Zambia.



Camille Landais was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Research Consolidator Grant for his research on children and gender inequality. Funding for these grants comes from the ERC's current research and innovation programme, Horizon 2020, and is awarded to outstanding researchers with a scientific track record showing great promise.



Alex Voorhoeve and a team led by Norihito Sakamoto have been awarded a grant by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, for a three-year research project entitled 'Policy Evaluation Methods Using Efficient and Equitable Social Welfare Functions'.



Ethan Ilzetzki joined the editorial board of the IMF Economic Review, the official research journal of the International Monetary Fund. The Economic Review publishes articles that offer a high-level view of economics, from fields such as: international trade, political economy, labour, economic history and development.

OUR FACULTY

Research Highlights



Oriana Bandiera, Adnan Khan *et al.*

'The Allocation of Authority in Organizations: A Field Experiment with Bureaucrats'

Forthcoming. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2021.



Jonathan Roberts, Julian Le Grand, *et al.*

Buying for good: Altruism, ethical consumerism and social policy.

Social Policy and Administration, 2021.



Sara Hagemann

Politics and Diplomacy: Lessons from Donald Tusk's Time as President of the European Council.

European Journal of International Law, 31(3), 2020.



Johanna Thoma

Temptation and preference-based rationality.
In: Bermúdez, J. L. (ed.) *Self-Control, Decision Theory, and Rationality: New Essays.*

Cambridge University Press: Cambridge, 2021.



Joana Naritomi, *et al*

Job Displacement Insurance and (the Lack of) Consumption-Smoothing.

American Economic Review, 111(3), 2021.

OUR FACULTY

Research Highlights



Berkay Ozcan, et al.
Reducing mommy penalties with daddy quotas.
Journal of European Social Policy, 31(2), 2021.



Robin Burgess, et al.
Cycles of Fire? Politics and Forest Burning in Indonesia.
AEA Papers and Proceedings, 111, 2021.

COVID-19 Response



Andrés Velasco, et al.
*Pandemics, Incentives, and Economic Policy:
A Dynamic Model.*
NBER Working Paper No. 28636, 2021.



Henry Overman, et al.
Will coronavirus cause a big city exodus?
*Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics
and City Science*, 47(9), 2020.



Joachim Wehner, et al.
*Pandemic Leadership: Did "Scientists" Lock
Down More Quickly?*
SocArXiv, 2021.

Publication Highlights



Ethan Ilzetki, et al.
The ECB's green agenda.
VoxEU, 2021.



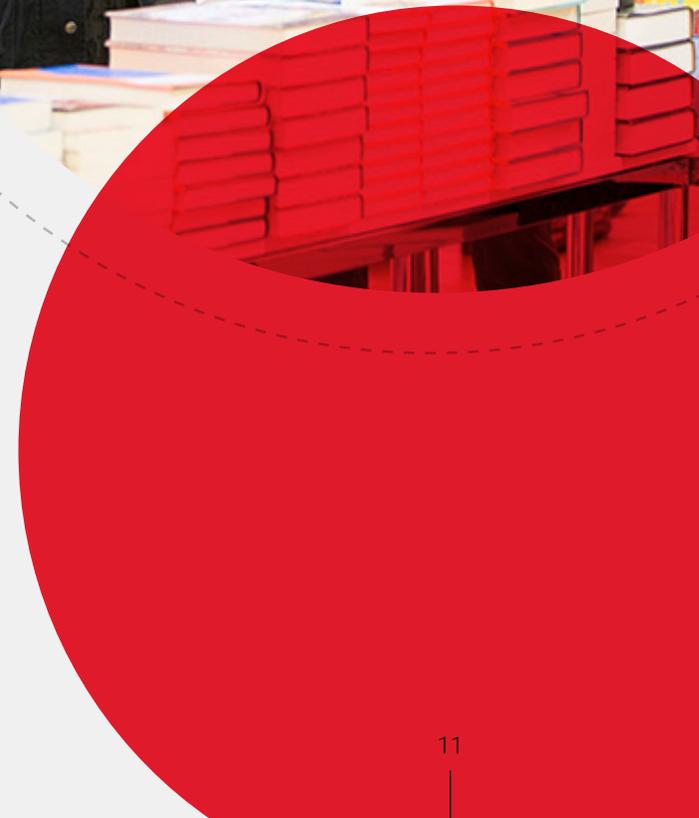
Andrés Velasco and Frank Muci
Brazilian Debt Jitters.
Project Syndicate, 2021.



Johannes Spinnewijn, et al.
How to improve tax compliance: Evidence from population-wide experiments in Belgium.
VoxEU, 2021.



Tony Travers, et al.
Driving towards urban recovery in London: Future scenarios for Lambeth and Southwark post Covid-19
Impact on Urban Health, LSE Cities, 2021.



OUR FACULTY

In the Policy Arena



Sara Hagemann has been involved as policy advisor and contributed to a number of public inquiries in the UK parliaments and the European Parliament, including contributing to the *House of Commons Committee on the Future Relationship With the European Union* report (2021) 'The shape of future parliamentary scrutiny of UK-EU relations', and the *European Parliament's Constitutional Affairs Committee (AFCO)* public inquiry into 'The Legislative Power in the EU'. Sara has also contributed to 'The EU-UK 2030' report, published by *UK in a Changing Europe*.

Andrés Velasco and **Vanessa Rubio-Marquez** are members of the recently created Advocates of the Reform of International Finance (ARIF) forum, which draws upon the G20 Eminent Persons Group legacy and aims to reform the international financial architecture to better support sustainable and equitable economic growth, through policy and advocacy proposals.

Adnan Khan co-founded and actively worked with a multi-disciplinary team to support COVID-19 policy response in Pakistan. Using the Smart Containment with Active Learning (SCALE) approach developed by the team, this involved conducting real-time analytical work in collaboration with governments to refine the policy response.

In 2021, **Joachim Wehner** was invited as a Guest Expert to contribute to the Club de Madrid's Global Commission on Democracy and Emergencies, as part of the Working Group on Effective Leadership and Democratic Culture. Additionally, he became a Member of the Sustainability Taskforce of the International Union of Railways, and is contributing to work by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) related to spending reviews.



IN FOCUS

New Double Degree: SPP-Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy

The School of Public Policy is delighted to launch a new double degree with the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy. The new two-year degree offers students an opportunity to gain a Master of Public Administration and Master of Global Affairs, and engage with complex issues in global policy-making at both prestigious universities.

Double degree students will begin their studies at the SPP as part of the Master of Public Administration programme and will develop key skills in political science, economics, quantitative analysis and an understanding of the philosophical principles underlying good public policy. Following a global summer internship, students spend the second year in Toronto as part of the Master of Global Affairs programme, which offers an in-depth study of the global system and its stakeholders, innovation policy, global justice, development, markets, and security.

Students will not only benefit from access to the expert faculty, careers support and alumni networks of both prestigious institutions, but they will also gain access to a professional skills programme and the opportunity to gain real-world policy experience through a global internship, a research-based policy paper and a client-focused capstone project.

In July, the SPP marked the launch of its new degree by welcoming Munk School Professor Ron Deibert to discuss his award-winning research 'Reset: Reclaiming the Internet for Civil Society', in conversation with Professor Andrés Velasco.

We look forward to both welcoming new double-degree students to the School of Public Policy and continuing our new partnership with University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy.

[Find out more about the Double Degree here.](#)



Greater Links with LSE Cities

This academic year, the School of Public Policy joined forces with the research centre, LSE Cities.

LSE Cities is an international centre that seeks to investigate the complexities of the contemporary city. Through research, postgraduate and executive education, outreach and advisory activities, the centre investigates how complex urban systems are responding to the pressures of growth, change and globalisation, with new infrastructures of design and governance that both complement and threaten social equity and environmental sustainability.

The SPP is excited for the new affiliation, as the link between the department and centre is strengthened. In recent years, the activities of LSE Cities have shifted to more focused research, policy-influencing initiatives and capacity-building – responding to a growing demand for evidence-based decision-making amongst urban actors in the public and private sector. This makes its goals ever-more aligned with that of the SPP, which itself is interested in developing city-focused activities.

[Find out more about LSE Cities](#)



Since its inception as a research centre, LSE Cities has investigated the links between the social, environmental and physical dynamics of cities. Our research, educational, outreach and capacity building activities have increasingly focussed on urban governance and innovative policy-making in cities.

The co-affiliation with the School of Public Policy is an important development for the centre which will allow us to develop and deliver a wider range of graduate, executive and training programmes that will shape urban leaders across the world.



**Professor Ricky Burdett,
Director, LSE Cities and Professor
of Urban Studies.**

LSE Public Policy Review

The LSE Public Policy Review (PPR) has published three additional issues, completing Volume One of its inaugural year in publication. Supported by the School of Public Policy, the PPR is an interdisciplinary journal that concentrates on key topics at the heart of current debates in public policy.

Articles in each issue follow a different disciplinary perspective, with the intention of encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration and analysis at the forefront of current thinking. The themes this year were: The Supportive State (Vol. 1, Issue 2); Doing Good and Doing Well: Individual and Organisational Motivations for Public Benefit (Vol. 1, Issue 3); and a COVID-19 Special Issue (Vol. 1, Issue 4)

The journal draws principally (though not exclusively) from LSE's nineteen departments, with members of SPP staff contributing the following articles:

- Poverty in the Time of COVID: The Effect of Social Assistance – Nidhi Parekh and Oriana Bandiera (Vol 1., Issue 2)
- A Springboard for New Citizens: Universal Basic Capital and a Citizen's Day – Julian Le Grand (Vol 1., Issue 2)
- Hands, Hearts and Hybrids: Economic Organization, Individual Motivation and Public Benefit – Julian Le Grand and Jonathan Roberts (Vol 1., Issue 3)
- Credit, Employment, and the COVID Crisis - Luis Felipe Céspedes, Roberto Chang and Andrés Velasco (Vol 1., Issue 4)
- Preparing for Crises: Lessons from Covid-19 - Jishnu Das, Adnan Q. Khan, Asim I. Khwaja and Anum Malkani (Vol 1., Issue 4)
- The Attractions and Limitations of Pragmatist Crisis Management: A Discussion in Light of COVID-19 Experiences – Arjen Boin and Martin Lodge (Vol 1., Issue 4)

[Find out more](#)



LSE COVID-19 Blog

With so many LSE academics embarking on COVID-related research projects, it made sense for the School of Public Policy to showcase the work being done and its policy implications in a dedicated blog. Since its launch in April 2020, LSE COVID-19 has published more than 350 posts - two-thirds of them by at least one LSE author.

It is the only university blog in the UK entirely devoted to COVID-19 research and thinking, and takes a proactive approach to attracting contributors, encouraging early career researchers to write.

The blog mirrors LSE's Shaping the Post-COVID World research themes, but expands on them by commissioning posts from universities around the world. As countries' experiences of the pandemic have diverged, this has given us wider and more nuanced perspectives. These are particularly important when international travel is limited and countries turn inward to deal with the crisis. We also work closely with LSE Events, showcasing thinkers by adapting their contributions to online events for a wider audience.

Although the blog is based in the SPP, we have worked with almost every department or institution at LSE, as well as encouraging SPP alumni to contribute with lived experiences from the front line in COVID-19 public policy and around the world. One Executive MPA student, for example, was able to share his experiences of working on New Zealand's pandemic response. In another post, an ethnographer described the last days of his father as he died of COVID in India.

Our ultimate purpose is to put policy ideas and research into the public domain in an accessible, readable and attractive format.

[Visit the COVID-19 blog here.](#)



Shaping the Post-COVID World Event Series

Building on the important conversations and research being undertaken as part of LSE's COVID-19: The Policy Response event series, the Shaping the Post-COVID World initiative convenes a debate about the direction the world could and should be taking after the pandemic, and what policies national and global actors should pursue. This debate provides an opportunity for us to help shape the "new normal", in line with the LSE's wider strategic ambition to be the leading social science institution with the greatest global impact.

The School of Public Policy played a pivotal role in the Shaping the Post-COVID World events programme, with Professor Andrés Velasco taking part in the initiative's steering committee. The SPP hosted twelve virtual events between September 2020 and July 2021, which explored several of the initiative's key themes, such as: democracy and rights, welfare and public policy trade-offs and health and social care.

[Read more about the Shaping the Post-COVID World key themes in Professor Simon Hix's blog.](#)



Event Highlights

Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World

Speakers: *Fareed Zakaria*

Chair: *Professor Andrés Velasco*

In his timely new book, *Ten Lessons for a Post-Pandemic World*, Fareed Zakaria, one of the 'top ten global thinkers of the last decade' (Foreign Policy), foresees the nature of a post-pandemic world: the political, social, technological and economic consequences that may take years to unfold. In this event, Fareed Zakaria discussed his ten hopeful 'lessons', and encouraged the audience to consider the degree to which nothing is written - the future is truly in our own hands.

[Listen to the podcast](#) or [watch the video](#).

Lessons Learnt from the Pandemic

Speaker: *Dr Mukulika Banerjee; Professor Paul Dolan, Professor Andrés Velasco, Dr Clare Wenham*

Chair: *Professor Simon Hix*

Over a year on from the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the panellists, who came from different academic disciplines, convened to discuss which key lessons have been learnt so far, that should shape the policies that national and global actors should pursue.

[Listen to the podcast](#) or [watch the video](#).



Event Highlights

Seven Ways to Change the World - How To Fix The Most Pressing Problems We Face

Speakers: Rt Hon Gordon Brown

Chair: Baroness Minouche Shafik

Responding in part to the unprecedented impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Gordon Brown presented his new book, which offers solutions to the challenges we face in 2021 and beyond.

In his book, he identifies seven major global problems that require an urgent response by a global community of nations working together: global health; climate change and environmental damage; nuclear proliferation; global financial instability; the humanitarian crisis and global poverty; the barriers to education and opportunity; and global inequality and its biggest manifestation, global tax havens.

[Listen to the podcast](#) or [watch the video](#).



LSE Programme: Brexit and Beyond

The LSE Programme: Brexit and Beyond is a dedicated series to stimulate the public debate and informed discussion about Brexit. It comprises the [LSE Brexit blog](#) and an ambitious programme of events targeting LSE staff and students, the general public, policymakers, practitioners and professionals working on Brexit.

The programme, which is a joint initiative of the School of Public Policy and European Institute at LSE, has been running successfully for five years under the direction of Professor Tony Travers and Professor Kevin Featherstone.

It promotes the view that LSE is one of Europe's leading platforms for the discussion of the policy challenges, institutional issues and wider processes and trends affecting both the European Union and the European continent as a whole.



Public Events

A pivotal part of the Programme are the public events, which attract high level speakers, guests from the diplomatic community, media and think-tanks. Despite the pandemic, the Programme quickly moved online to provide an exciting schedule of events.

With the final stages of the Brexit process at the forefront of public debate, these events provided invaluable insight for members of the public and experts alike. The events proved incredibly popular, with [‘Negotiating Our Post-Brexit Future: where are we heading?’](#) being listed in the School’s top three public online events of 2020, with 4,999 YouTube video views and 51,435 podcast downloads.

The success of online events spurred the Programme into its final year, with events exploring the latest issues that have developed since the finalisation of Brexit. The Programme hosted experts from a range of fields, exploring topics around whether Brexit created a culture war in the UK, the impact of Brexit on higher education, the options that lie ahead for the EU without its relationship with the UK, and the impact of Brexit on UK market regulation. A series of videos were additionally produced, in which leading thinkers further discussed relevant key issues. You can watch them [here](#).

The Programme will celebrate its success with its final event in September 2021, hosting Michel Barnier (former Head of the European Commission’s UK Task Force) at the LSE campus.



OUR EVENTS

LSE
#LSEFestival
**New
World
DisOrders**
lse.ac.uk/festival

Deflection of
blame for
socio-
economic
problems in
state-
controlled
media



OUR EVENTS

Event Highlights

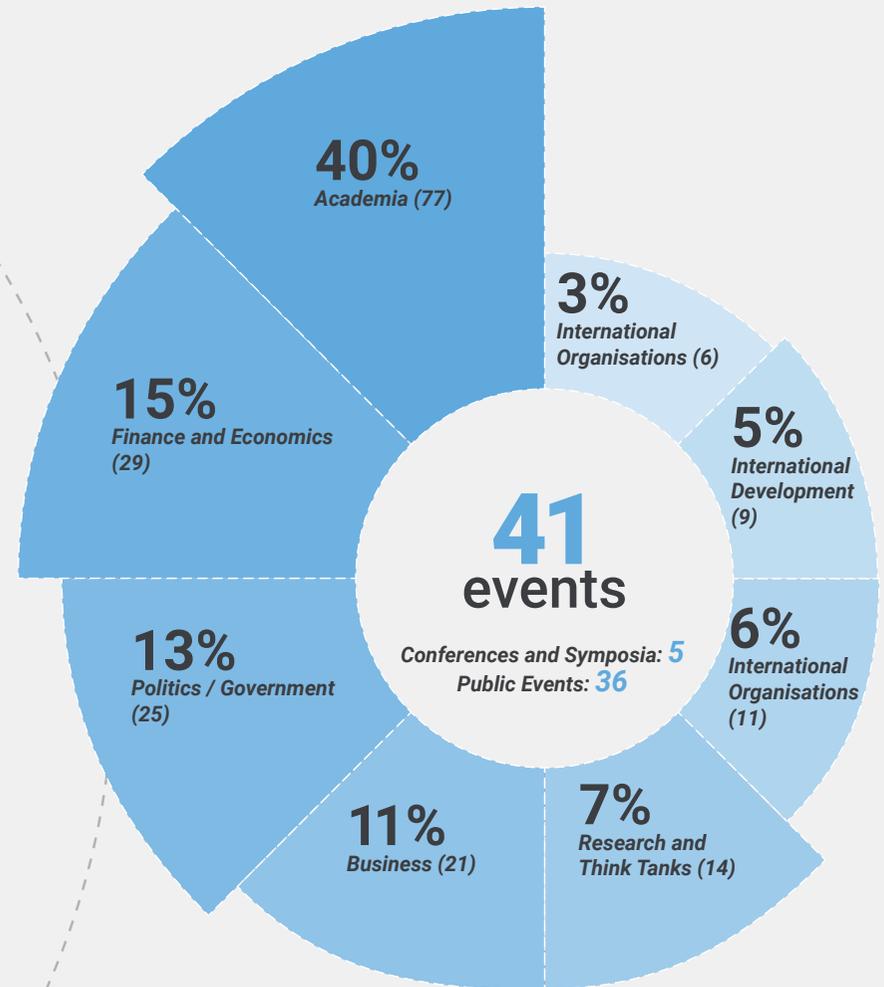
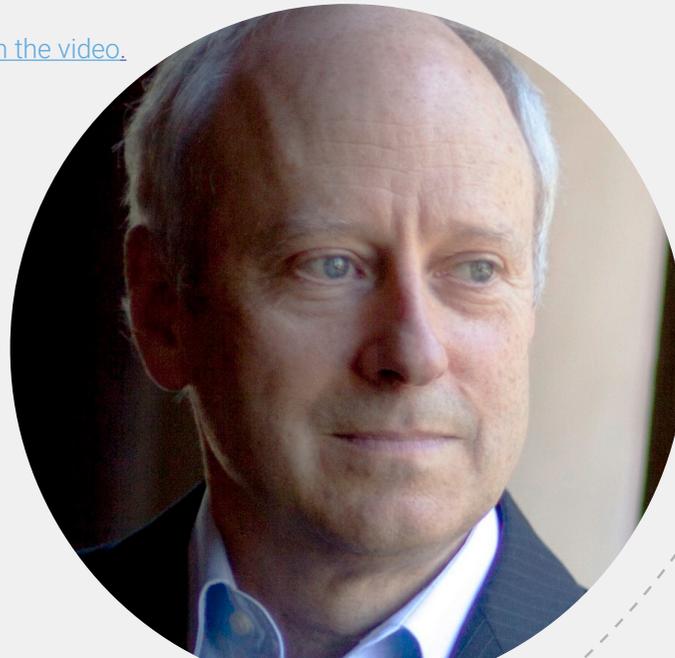
The Tyranny of Merit: what's become of the common good?

Speaker: Professor Michael Sandel.

Chair: Professor Andrés Velasco

Michael Sandel presented his new book, in which he argues that to overcome the polarised politics of our time, we must rethink the attitudes toward success and failure that have accompanied globalisation and rising inequality. He offers an alternative way of thinking about success - more attentive to the role of luck in human affairs, more conducive to an ethic of humility, and more hospitable to a politics of the common good.

[Listen to the podcast](#) or [watch the video](#).



Event Highlights

Drugs and Development Policies: a discussion with the Global Commission on Drug Policy

Speakers: *Juan Manuel Santos, Helen Clark, Ruth Dreifuss and Kgalema Motlanthe.*
Chair: *Professor Andrés Velasco.*

In this event, the four former heads of state or government, from four regions of the world, discussed the negative consequences of the international drug control regime on sustainable development. They considered possible medium- and long-term solutions to the harms created by current policies.

[Listen to the podcast](#) or [watch the video](#).

Money and Power: the world leaders who changed economics

Speakers: *Sir Vince Cable and Vicky Pryce.*
Chair: *Professor Andrés Velasco*

Economist and politician Vince Cable discussed his latest book, in which he examines the legacy of 16 world leaders who transformed their countries' economic fortunes and who also challenged economic convention.

[Listen to the podcast](#) or [watch the video](#).



Beveridge 2.0: Redefining the Social Contract

[Beveridge 2.0. Redefining the Social Contract](#) is an initiative hosted at the School of Public Policy that brings the LSE community together with the intent of exploring opportunities for collaborative cross-disciplinary research.

In its second year, the Beveridge 2.0 programme established itself as a key avenue to foster dialogue and collaboration across LSE. In 2020-21 speakers from nineteen LSE Departments and Centres contributed to the programme's symposia and public events. Beveridge 2.0's main themes this year included:

- a multi-disciplinary analysis of the [supportive role of the State](#) – including widely debated approaches such as Universal Basic Income, Universal Capital Grants and Universal Basic Services. Listen to the podcast of the accompanying event [here](#).
- an exploration, in collaboration with the [Marshall Institute](#), of the [motivations of individuals, private and third sector actors to contribute to public benefit](#). Watch the accompanying event [here](#).
- a focus on [reciprocity](#) as a principle of social cooperation, and on how emerging social and economic challenges bear on the reciprocal relationships underpinning welfare state institutions
- an examination of merits and challenges of including [wellbeing](#) as a goal of public policy.

Publications on the first two of these themes have already appeared in dedicated journal issues of the [LSE Public Policy Review](#), while the others are forthcoming in 2021. As the programme continues to grow, it consolidates LSE School of Public Policy's unique position in contributing to the research and public debate around the policy solutions suited to the demands of the twenty-first century.

OUR EVENTS

Policy in Practice Seminars

The Policy in Practice Seminars are aimed at engaging with professionals, policy actors and practitioners involved in public policy in various capacities, in order to bring together practice and academia and to deepen the learning experience of SPP students. These seminars are organised by Vanessa Rubio-Márquez and Adnan Khan, Professors in Practice at the SPP.

Speakers at this year's series of Seminars included: **Barbara Rambousek** (Director of Gender & Economic Inclusion within the Department of Country and Sector Economics at the EBRD), **Mirian Vilela** (Executive Director of the Earth Charter International Secretariat), **Rafat Ali Al-Akhali** (former Minister of Youth and Sports in the Government of Yemen), **Yamini Aiyar** (President and Chief Executive of Centre for Policy Research India), **Carlos Raúl Morales** (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guatemala 2014 – 2017) and **Nick Rowley** (former Advisor on Sustainability and Climate change to UK Prime Minister Tony Blair).

Listen to podcast recordings of the Policy in Practice Seminars [here](#).



A circular frame containing a photograph of two young men sitting at a desk in a classroom or office. They are both looking at their laptops. The man on the left is wearing a grey sweater and has his hand to his chin. The man on the right is wearing a brown sweater and glasses, also with his hand to his chin. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people and a whiteboard. The entire image is overlaid with a teal color gradient and a dashed white circle.

OUR STUDENTS

OUR STUDENTS

Programme Overviews

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

The MPA is an interdisciplinary two-year degree covering the broad field of public policy and administration in a global context. The degree places a special emphasis on rigorous empirical training - particularly in economics, econometrics and political science - necessary for addressing today's most pressing public policy problems. All students are given scope to choose a policy specialism in their second year, when they also complete an MPA Capstone project that puts them to work on a real-world policy challenge hosted by an external client.

Master of Public Policy (MPP)

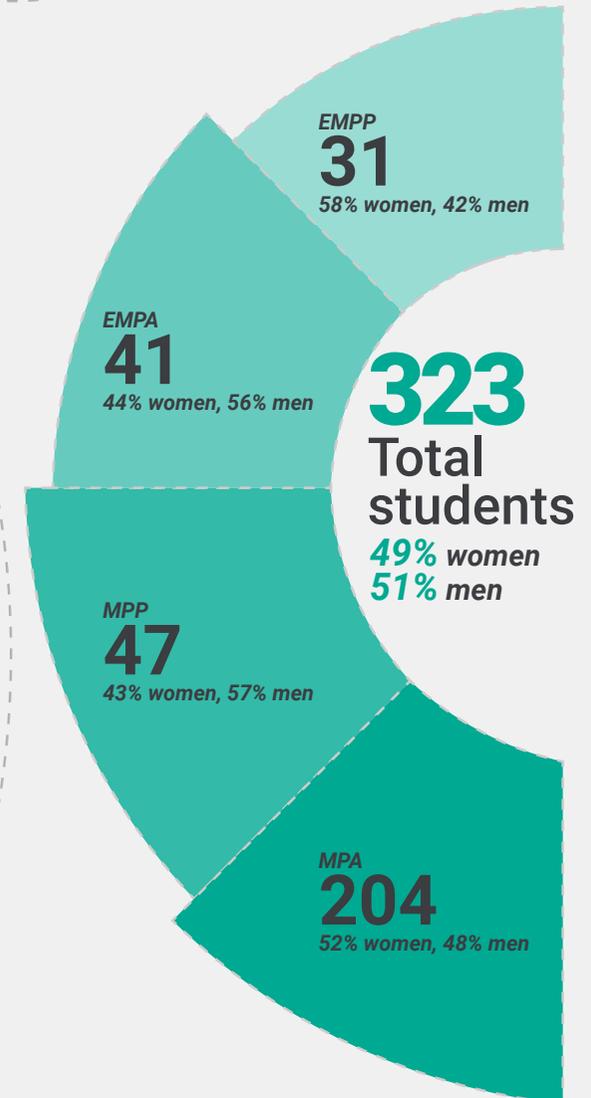
The one-year MPP teaches the 'craft of government', offering grounding in many key specialisms of policymaking, with the aim of giving mid-level or senior-level policymakers the training needed to make 'good' policy. The degree allows students to take a career break and quickly return to the workplace equipped to take on new challenges.

Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA)

The 19-month EMPA attracts our most experienced students. It runs in a modular format, with students attending teaching for 8 intensive blocks, allowing them to remain in their jobs and combine work with study. Students have at least five years of post-degree professional experience and often substantially more, creating a network of contacts to drive career progress at senior levels.

Executive Master of Public Policy (EMPP)

The EMPP equips senior and high-potential civil servants with the cutting-edge analytical tools required to deliver effective policy. It is the first programme of its kind to be commissioned by a cross-government policy community in the UK. Available only to members of the UK Civil Service, the EMPP follows a similar curriculum to the EMPA and is aimed at developing people with the talent and drive to reach the very highest levels of the Civil Service Policy Profession.



OUR STUDENTS

Welcoming the New Luksic Scholars

The new Luksic scholarship, supported by the Luksic family, was launched this year. The scholarships, which are needs-based, support ten outstanding postgraduate students from Chile, joining the SPP's MPA or MPP programme.

The scholarship offers an extraordinary opportunity for talented young professionals to gain the knowledge and skills they will later use to improve lives and livelihoods through policymaking. In the midst of challenging global circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the scholarships are already having a profound impact on the students whose LSE experiences have just begun.



OUR STUDENTS

Capstone Projects

Undertaken by second year MPA students, the Capstone project is designed to ensure that students have an intensive and closely supervised experience of working in a group on a real-world public policy project. Capstone teams carry out analysis and research in order to address a practical policy issue relevant to the client organisation, allowing students to apply what they have learnt whilst undertaking the MPA in a professional manner.

Capstone partners come from a range of private sector companies, international organisations, international development consultancies, non-governmental organisations, public corporations and UK government agencies.

A selection of 2020-2021 projects:

“Making social protection ‘Epi-Smart’” – World Food Programme

This project provides information and analysis to answer the question whether and how social protection can address outbreaks of major epidemics, such as HIV-AIDS, Ebola and Covid-19. The report develops an analytical framework for ‘epidemiologically smart’ or ‘epi-smart’ social protection that reflects a holistic continuum of care approach: prevention, testing, treatment, and adherence. This framework can be used for developing policy interventions to address epidemics in a holistic way.

“The equity needs of European start-ups and the impact of the business cycle” – European Investment Fund

This report estimates the average equity financing needs of young and innovative small-and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) in the European Union. It presents empirical evidence on how the business cycle affects conditional average equity volumes using a cross-country panel of 25 countries for the period from 2009 to 2019. It develops a methodology that can be used to estimate the amounts of equity finance obtained by SMEs from private equity funds and their association with the business cycle.



OUR STUDENTS

Capstone Projects

“Promoting an inclusive and diverse tech economy in the UK” – Amazon

This report assesses gender and ethnic diversity in the UK tech sector and develops the first-ever index to capture current diversity and inclusion across the sector. The technology sector is rapidly growing and a key industry for future economic growth in the UK. It has also long been criticized for its lack of diversity. This Tech Diversity Index measures women and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups’ representation, focusing on barriers to diversity in access, advancement, retention, equal earnings, and entrepreneurship.

“Promoting inclusive growth in urban land development” – City of Cape Town Government

This project sought to identify the relevant conditions that policymakers should consider in land development to contribute to inclusive growth in the context of the City of Cape Town (CCT). This study supports high-level strategies that have been designed by the CCT Government to promote inclusive growth (2020 Inclusive Economic Growth Strategy) and improve the living conditions of human settlements throughout the city (2020 Human Settlement Strategy).



OUR STUDENTS



Beyond the Classroom

Womxn's Network

The [Womxn's Network](#) is a student organisation working to empower and amplify the voices of those marginalised by the intersectionalities of gender and/or sexuality. The Network aims to further encourage the inclusion of marginalised voices within policymaking through various events and forums designed to promote learning and open discussion.

Despite the challenges of the pandemic this year, the Network was able to accomplish great things and create numerous new opportunities for students. A few notable achievements include:

- expansion of the professional development mentoring program
- record number of events and speakers from underrepresented backgrounds
- attended and hosted virtual conferences
- a climate research project with the Women's Forum for Economy and Society
- the release of the 2021 SPP Inclusive Curriculum Report.

The Turner MBA Impact Investing Network & Training (MIINT)

The [MIINT](#) competition offers postgraduate students an opportunity to compete for a \$50,000 investment into an impactful start-up, offering a hands-on education in impact investing. The SPP's 2021 contingent of six MPA and MPP students saw success as the only public policy team to reach the finals, finishing in the top seven of over 100 teams.

The team delivered an impact and financial due diligence on Wenu, whose smart-meters and energy management software cut electricity consumption of Chilean companies by 20%. The team was guided by Professor Stephan Chambers and the Marshall Institute at LSE, and MIINT's impact investing online course. The competition helped build networks and skills that will last beyond this year for a team seeking to deliver meaningful impact in their careers.

Read about the team's experience [here](#).

OUR STUDENTS

Beyond the Classroom

The Public Sphere

The Public Sphere (PSJ) is a journal of international policy studies produced by SPP students. In 2020-2021, the PSJ launched its 9th Volume, continuing its legacy of publishing relevant and rigorous public policy research. It also continued to work closely with the network of journals united by the Houghton St Press.

In a year with unprecedented events, Volume 9 of the PSJ focused on the extremely relevant issue of State Capacity and Response. The 13 policy papers and briefs chosen for the issue examined this broad theme from different angles: looking at, for example, state responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency, and broader questions of inequality.

Find out more about the PSJ's publications and podcast [here](#).



Global Public Policy Network (GPPN)

Students from the SPP once again participated in the annual [GPPN conference](#), which was held virtually this year on 4-6 March, hosted by the Graduate School of Public Policy, University of Tokyo.

The GPPN's mission is to address the most pressing public policy challenges of the 21st century, by students of seven of the most prestigious public policy schools in the world. This year's theme was 'The Crisis of Globalisation as We Know It', in which eighteen SPP students contributed to a discussion on the risks globalisation can harbour, and advantages it can offer. The four SPP teams pitched the following innovative policy ideas:

- Promoting Trade for Developing and Least Developed Countries
- Free Trade for Fair Health in Africa (achieving Best Video)
- Aviation Impact Resource Fund (achieving Feasibility Award)
- Institutionalising and Restructuring DSSI: Fighting COVID-19 Financial Crisis

A photograph of two graduates, a man and a woman, in black academic gowns with yellow and purple stoles. They are standing in front of a building with a large window and a sign that says "LSE". Both graduates have their arms raised in the air, looking upwards with expressions of joy and accomplishment. The scene is framed by a large, semi-transparent pink circle with a dashed white border. The background is a light-colored building with blue window frames and a red sign with the letters "LSE" in white. There are some green plants in the foreground.

OUR ALUMNI

OUR ALUMNI

The SPP has an amazing community of over 1,500 alumni from the MPA, EMPA, EMPP, and recently introduced MPP programme.

We are lucky to have an international alumni body spanning over 95 countries around the world. Our alumni work in government, research, education, finance, international development, consultancy, film production, NGOs, and think tanks: doing everything from reforming the electoral system and combating climate change to providing clean water in vulnerable communities.

It's been another unusual, socially-distanced year, but we are delighted that our community has kept in touch. As restrictions begin easing we are looking forward to providing a balance of in-person and online events, ensuring our international alumni body can stay connected just as easily as those in London.

This year's highlights include:

- A series of sector-based alumni panels, where alumni answered students' questions about their work. We covered careers in consultancy, finance and economics, and government and policy, as well as an event on preparing for life after the LSE.
- Two alumni networking sessions and a career development event run in partnership with LSE Careers.
- An inaugural alumni panel discussion on creating a greener future. Chaired by the Executive Director of LSE Cities, we heard from alumni working at the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for BEIS, The Nature Conservancy, and Nexio Projects (a sustainable consultancy firm).
- Alumni socials held on a new virtual platform, Gather.town.
- 'Words of Wisdom': an initiative where alumni write in with words of advice or encouragement for graduating students and incoming offer-holders.



Alumni in the Spotlight

The MPP programme was immensely beneficial in helping me combine the theory, politics, and tools of policymaking - key elements in making governments and policies work for development. Learning with extraordinary classmates who shared their expertise, background, and culture also helped to illustrate how our varied life experiences shape our policy choices and preferences.



Toluwalola Kasali

MPP graduate, class of 2020

**Operations Officer
(Creating Markets Advisory)
at the IFC Nigeria (World Bank Group).**

Akash Mehta

MPA graduate, class of 2020

**Environmental Analyst
at the World Bank**



I had the most wonderful two years of my life at LSE. What attracted me most towards the MPA at LSE was its curriculum and the diversity of students. I always felt that I was a part of something meaningful at LSE's School of Public Policy. Each one of my professors, colleagues, and friends have given me a unique sense of understanding and helped me continue to push myself for better. Life will move on, but these memories will stay forever.

Find out more about our Alumni [here](#).

OUR ALUMNI

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 truly 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 today, and enables us to find new ways of supporting a new generation of scholars and policy leaders.

Over the next few years the SPP is seeking to enrich the student experience outside the classroom; support student participation in relevant conferences, seminars, and other projects that will enhance their educational experience; and fundraise for financial aid for our students.

Our donors enable us to make wonderful things, 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 2020-2021 financial year.

Douglas G Scrivner

Jorge G Larrain Matte

Bernardo Larrain Matte

Rodolfo V Marino

Jean-Paul Luksic and the Luksic Family

Maryam Forum Foundation



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 School of Public Policy,
London School of Economics and Political Science

Contact us

School of Public Policy
London School of Economics and Political Science
Houghton Street
London WC2A 2AE
spp@lse.ac.uk

Credits

Editor | Karina Moxon

Design | Rex Bites - Digital Content & Productions