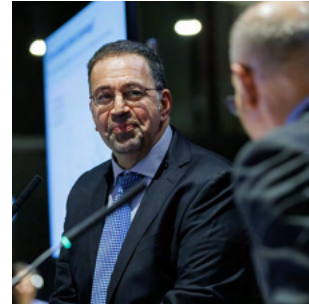
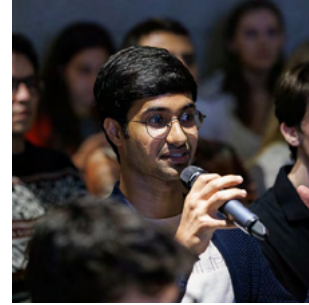




THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

# Phelan United States Centre Annual Report 2023-24





Images © 2023 Robert Irving/LSE

Images from *Climate Change: America and the World* exhibition launch event, LSE Atrium Gallery, 6 November 2023: Clockwise: LSE student views exhibition canvas, Centennial Professor Laura Pulido, LSE Department of Geography and Environment/Phelan US Centre, LSE student views exhibition canvas, Chelsea Collison, Learning and Engagement Officer, LSE Library, with her 2022-23 Arts Competition entry.

Cover images: Highlights from *The Future of Capitalism in an Age of Insecurity* conference, 20-21 October 2023, Marshall Building, LSE. Top to bottom: Top row (l-r) an LSE student asks a question, Anne-Marie Slaughter (New America). Second row (l-r) conference keynote speaker Daron Acemoglu (MIT), LSE incoming President and Vice Chancellor Larry Kramer. Third row (l-r) Leslie Vinjamuri (Chatham House and SOAS University of London). Fourth row (l-r) Nicola Lacey (LSE Law School), C. Raja Mohan (Asia Society), Stephanie Rickard (LSE Department of Government), LSE student during conference. Fifth Row (l-r) Jeff Legro (University of Richmond), Elizabeth Ingleson (LSE Department of International History), Conference live illustrator, Artist, Jorge Martin. Sixth row (l-r) Sheri Berman (Barnard College, Columbia University), David Luke (LSE Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa), LSE student and steward, Michael Cox (LSE IDEAS). Seventh row (l-r) Jorich Loubser (LSE Department of International Development), G. John Ikenberry (Princeton University), Nita Rudra (Georgetown University), an LSE student asks a question.

Image: © 2024 Robin Boot/LSE



Left to right:  
 Lord Fox, master's student essay competition winner David Millman, The Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena MP, essay competition runners-up Yazmin Baptiste and Manickam Valliappan, and Lord Elliott.

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# Director's Message

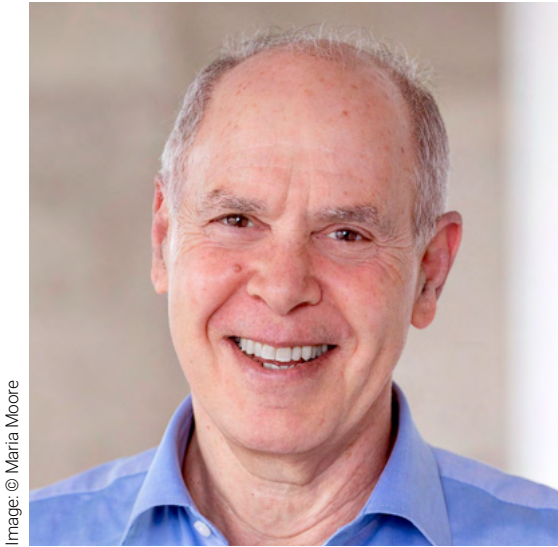


Image: © Maria Moore

In October 2023, the Phelan US Centre hosted a major conference on the populist backlash against free market capitalism, which is the cover theme of this year's Annual Report.

Bringing together leading scholars and analysts, the two-day conference explored the many challenges that the US and other nations must negotiate if they hope to restore public confidence in markets and democratic governance.

With over 250 faculty, students, and alumni in attendance, and many more participating online, the conference showcased the Centre's great convening power. It also underscored the Centre's continuing commitment to providing expert analysis and commentary on pressing challenges facing the United States in these unsettled times.

The October conference kicked off another busy year at the Centre, with public lectures and seminars on topics ranging from the 2024 US presidential campaign to the future of US-China

relations. We closed out the academic year with two research conferences at LSE: one on comparative innovation and inequality in America and Europe; the other, on US nuclear strategy in Asia.

This year we welcomed several new LSE Centre Affiliates as well as new members of staff. Professor Laura Pulido, University of Oregon, and LSE Centennial Chair, joined us again this year, as did three new distinguished visitors: Professor G. John Ikenberry, Princeton University; Dr Fred Kaplan, *Slate* magazine; and Professor Jeffrey Legro, University of Richmond.

In the pages that follow, we spotlight the notable achievements of two Centre Affiliates, Dr Elizabeth Ingleson of International History and Dr Rohan Mukherjee of International Relations. You will see, too, that *The Ballpark*, our popular podcast series, had another stellar year. We also held our first LSE Atrium Gallery Exhibition: *Climate Change: America and the World*.

We take great pride in our student-facing initiatives, which are as popular as ever. Last year, 175 undergraduates applied for research assistantships to work with Centre Affiliates. Meanwhile, the Centre's blog continues to draw large numbers of academics and analysts eager to connect their research on the US with a large, global audience.

This level of programming would not be possible without the many talented and dedicated faculty and staff who make up the Centre. A big thank you to them, along with our students and alumni, who together make the Phelan US Centre such a vibrant, inclusive community and a hub for international collaboration and exchange.

**Professor Peter Trubowitz**  
**Director, Phelan United States Centre**

# About the Director

**Peter Trubowitz** is Professor of International Relations at LSE and Associate Fellow at Chatham House. He writes and comments frequently on world affairs and American politics. His published work includes: *Geopolitics and Democracy: The Western Liberal Order from Foundation to Fracture* (Oxford, 2023); *Politics and Strategy: Partisan Ambition and American Statecraft* (Princeton, 2011); and *Defining the National Interest: Conflict and Change in American Foreign Policy* (Chicago, 1998), as well as articles in leading scholarly journals and popular magazines.

An award-winning teacher, Professor Trubowitz has lectured on world affairs to universities worldwide as well as to government bodies, think tanks and private companies. A frequent

television guest on Bloomberg, CNBC and other international media outlets, he has undertaken research supported by grants and fellowships from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the John M. Olin Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and the Social Science Research Council, among others.

Before joining LSE, he was Professor of Government at the University of Texas at Austin. He has held visiting positions at Harvard, Princeton, Universidad de Chile, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) in Mexico City, Tsinghua University, and Beijing Foreign Studies University, where he was the J. William Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer in American Foreign Policy.



Image: © 2024 Pete Jobson/LSE

Left to right: Professor Daron Acemoglu (MIT) with Professor Peter Trubowitz at the keynote event, *Rethinking market capitalism: Innovation and the Path to Shared Prosperity*, 20 October 2023.

# Advisory Board

The Advisory Board provides external perspective and guidance on the Phelan US Centre's mission and work.



**CHAIR - G. John Ikenberry**  
**Princeton University**

John Ikenberry is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs in the Department of Politics and the School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University. He is Co-Director of Princeton's Center for International Security Studies.



**Nicola Lacey**  
**LSE**

Nicola Lacey is School Professor of Law, Gender and Social Policy at LSE. Before joining LSE, she was Senior Research Fellow at All Souls College and Professor of Criminal Law and Legal Theory at the University of Oxford.



**Tim Besley**  
**LSE**

Sir Tim Besley is School Professor of Economics and Political Science and W. Arthur Lewis Professor of Development Economics in the Department of Economics at LSE. He is a member of the UK's National Infrastructure Commission.



**Tracey L. Meares**  
**Yale University**

Tracey Meares is Walton Hale Hamilton Professor at Yale Law School and a Founding Director of Yale's Justice Collaboratory. She served on President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.



**Lloyd Gruber**  
**LSE**

Lloyd Gruber is the former Dean of LSE's Institute of Public Affairs and a Lecturer in the Department of International Development. Before joining LSE he was Associate Professor at the University of Chicago's Harris School of Public Policy.



**Leslie Vinjamuri**  
**Chatham House and SOAS**

Leslie Vinjamuri is Director of the US and the Americas Programme and Chair of Faculty of the Queen Elizabeth Academy for Leadership in International Affairs at Chatham House, the Royal Institute of International Affairs. She is Professor of International Relations at SOAS University of London.



**Matthew Jones**  
**LSE**

Matthew Jones is Professor of International History and former Head of the Department of International History at LSE. He is the Cabinet Office Official Historian of the UK strategic nuclear programme.



**John Phelan**  
**MSD Capital, ex officio**

John Phelan is Co-Founding Partner and Chief Investment Officer of MSD Partners and MSD Capital. He serves on the Board of Trustees of the Whitney Museum of American Art and the Aspen Art Museum. He is a member of LSE's North American Advisory Board.

# Management Committee

The Management Committee is made up of LSE faculty who monitor our programming, research and operations.



**CHAIR - Peter Trubowitz**  
Director of Phelan US Centre  
Professor, International  
Relations



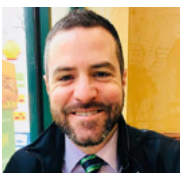
**Roham Alvandi**  
Roham Alvandi is Associate  
Professor in the Department of  
International History at LSE.  
Dr Alvandi teaches courses at

LSE on the history of modern Iran, as well as the history of the "United States in the World".



**Jeffrey M. Chwieroth**  
Jeffrey M. Chwieroth is  
Professor of International  
Relations and Head of the  
Department of International

Relations at LSE. Professor Chwieroth's research interests include the political economy of international money and finance, and the politics of climate-related risks to financial stability and household wealth.



**James Morrison**  
James Morrison is Associate  
Professor in the Department of  
International Relations at LSE.  
He specialises in international

political economy. Dr Morrison's work examines the role of ideas and intellectuals in foreign economic policy. His first book is: *England's Cross of Gold: Keynes, Churchill, and the Governance of Economic Beliefs*.



**Stephanie Rickard**  
Stephanie Rickard is Professor  
of Political Science in the  
Department of Government  
at LSE. Professor Rickard's

research is on trade policy, specifically non-tariff barriers to foreign trade (including state subsidies and discriminatory government procurement practices).



**David Soskice**  
David Soskice is LSE School  
Professor of Political Science  
and Economics Emeritus,  
Emeritus Professor of Political

Science at Duke University, Fellow of the British Academy, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a Member of Academia Europaea, and of the LSE International Inequalities Institute.



**Imaobong Umoren**  
Imaobong Umoren is Associate  
Professor in the Department of  
International History at LSE. Dr  
Umoren's research focuses on

histories of race, gender, activism and political thought in the Caribbean, Britain and the US during the modern and contemporary periods.

# Centre Affiliates



**Roham Alvandi**  
Associate Professor  
Department of International History



**Chris Anderson**  
Professor  
European Institute



**Paul Apostolidis**  
Associate Professorial Lecturer  
Department of Government



**Fenella Cannell**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Anthropology



**Steven Casey**  
Professor  
Department of International History



**Jeffrey M. Chwieroth**  
Professor  
Department of International Relations



**Michael Cox**  
Professor  
LSE IDEAS



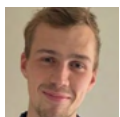
**Rebecca Elliott**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology



**Fawaz A. Gerges**  
Professor  
Department of International Relations



**Lloyd Gruber**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of International Development



**Jonny Hall**  
LSE Fellow  
Department of International Relations



**Tanya Harmer**  
Associate Professor  
Department of International History



**Elizabeth Ingleson**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of International History



**Matthew Jones**  
Professor  
Department of International History



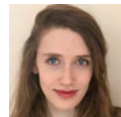
**Johann Koehler**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Social Policy



**Nicola Lacey**  
School Professor  
Department of Law



**David Madden**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology



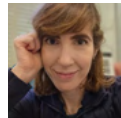
**Jacklyn Majnemer**  
LSE Fellow  
Department of Government



**James Morrison**  
Associate Professor  
Department of International Relations



**Rohan Mukherjee**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of International Relations



**Mona Paulsen**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Law



**Stephanie Rickard**  
Professor  
Department of Government



# Centre Affiliates



**Cheryl Schonhardt-Bailey**  
Professor  
Department of Government



**David Soskice**  
School Professor  
Department of Government



**Jessie Speer**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography and Environment



**Michael Storper**  
Professor  
Department of Geography and Environment



**Lauren Sukin**  
Assistant Professor  
Department of International Relations



**Luca Tardelli**  
Assistant Professorial Lecturer  
Department of International Relations



**Silvana Tenreyro**  
Professor  
Department of Economics



**Imaobong Umoren**  
Associate Professor  
Department of International History



**John Van Reenen**  
School Professor  
Department of Economics

(A-Z by surname) A list of Centre Affiliates' publications is available on our website

## PHELAN US CENTRE TEAM



**Peter Trubowitz**  
Director



**Adeola Akande Pierre-Noël**  
Centre Manager



**Chris Gilson**  
Blog Editor, USAPP blog



**Callum Cleasby**  
Centre Administrator, 2023-24



**Sakshi Verma**  
Centre Administrator, 2023-24



**Joss Harrison**  
Centre Assistant, 2021-



**Anderson Tan**  
Producer, 2022-  
Podcast Producer, *The Ballpark*

## VISITING PROFESSORS



**Jeff Legro**  
University Professor,  
University of Richmond 2023-24



**G. John Ikenberry**  
Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International  
Affairs, Princeton University March - July 2024

## VISITING SENIOR FELLOW



**Fred Kaplan**  
Author and Journalist, *Slate* magazine  
April - May 2024

## VISITING FELLOW



**Kohei Watanabe**  
Waseda University  
2019-



In October 2023, Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. received an honorary doctorate and delivered the lecture, *Recovering enslaved peoples' perspectives from archives, literature, and art*, in the Shaw Library, LSE. Left to right: Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr.; Event Chair and Phelan US Centre Affiliate Dr Imaobong Umoren.

## Events

In 2023-24 the Phelan US Centre continued our programme of high-profile public events, including our flagship conference *The Future of Capitalism in an Age of Insecurity* on 20 to 21 October 2023. We have also continued to support our Centre Affiliates through small conferences and chairing public events at LSE. Through these, and our US-China Seminar Series and LSE Festival event, our events have convened discussions about the current social, economic, and political issues now facing the US, and put them in global context.

Image: © 2024 LSE/Noah Da Costa

# Public Lectures

Our programme of public lectures convenes expert analysis on contemporary issues facing the US in a global context in an accessible way, both in person and online. In 2023-24 our public lectures featured conversations with public intellectuals, scholars, journalists, and policymakers.



Fred Kaplan Phelan US Centre Visiting Senior Fellow.

## Is the risk of nuclear war increasing?

**Speakers** Fred Kaplan (*Slate*), Jeffery Legro (University of Richmond), Lauren Sukin (LSE Department of International Relations)

**Chair** Peter Trubowitz

**Date** 30 April 2024

## Made in China: When US-China interests converged to transform global trade

**Speaker** Elizabeth Ingleson (LSE Department of International History)

**Chair** Peter Trubowitz

**Date** 7 May 2024

## Recovering enslaved peoples' perspectives from archives, literature, and art

**Speakers** Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Harvard University), Sir Isaac Julien

**Chair** Imaobong Umoren (LSE Department of International History)

**Date** 5 October 2023

## Rethinking market capitalism: Innovation and the Path to Shared Prosperity

**Speaker** Daron Acemoglu (MIT)

**Chair** Peter Trubowitz

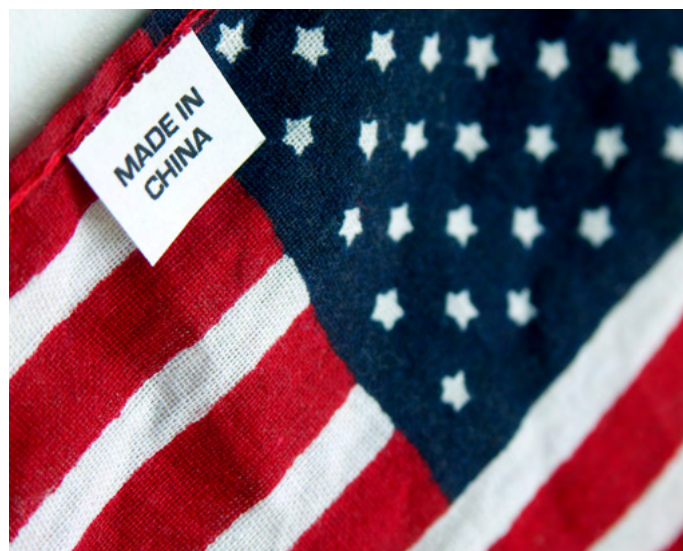
**Date** 20 October 2023

## Déjà vu all over again? Super Tuesday and the race for the presidency

**Speakers** Jason Casellas (University of Oxford), Ursula Hackett (Royal Holloway, University of London), Mark Landler (*New York Times*), Stephanie Rickard (LSE Department of Government)

**Chair** Peter Trubowitz

**Date** 6 March 2024



## The Policing Machine: Enforcement, Endorsements, and the Illusion of Public Input

**Speaker** Tony Cheng (Duke University)

**Chair** Johann Koehler (LSE Department of Social Policy)

**Date** 21 May 2024

# LSE Festival 2024

The annual LSE Festival took place from 10 to 15 June 2024, with the theme, “**Power and Politics**”. The festival explored how power and politics shape our world.

Image: Charlie Bibby/Financial Times



Gideon Rachman (*Financial Times*).

## Anti-globalism, international disorder and the West

Early hopes that Western democracies’ unified response to Vladimir Putin’s war against Ukraine would break the populist, anti-globalist fever have not been fulfilled. Instead, since the invasion, opponents of the liberal order have made deeper inroads in France, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, and elsewhere. Meanwhile, the possibility persists that Trump may return to the White House in 2025. An expert panel considered the international implications of populism’s continuing success in Western democracies.

**Speakers** Gideon Rachman (*Financial Times*), Helen Thompson (University of Cambridge), Leslie Vinjamuri (SOAS, Chatham House)

**Chair** Peter Trubowitz

**Date** 14 June 2024

# David Lloyd George Study Group

In 2022, with Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service, the Phelan US Centre launched the David Lloyd George Study Group. The group consists of 10 core members with broad regional representation globally, and a focus on global governance. The study group’s mandate is to analyse and debate the shape of the emerging international system, how to adapt existing international institutions and policies to a rapidly changing landscape, and what new structures might be needed to advance global governance.

The study group met in November 2023 in Doha, Qatar to discuss global challenges, including climate change, rising political polarisation, and the growing global distrust in governance. This meeting was accompanied by the event, *Global Governance in an Age of Fracture* on 9 November 2023.

The year’s second meeting was held at Fudan University,



L-R: Selina Ho (National University of Singapore), Eghosa Emmanuel Osaghae (University of Ibadan, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs), Cornelia Woll (Hertie School), Charles Kupchan (Georgetown University), Wu Xinbo (Fudan University), Peter Trubowitz (LSE Phelan US Centre), Monica Herz (Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro), Bahgat Korany (The American University in Cairo), Andrey Kortunov (Russian International Affairs Council, Moscow) and C. Raja Mohan (Asia Society Policy Institute).

Shanghai in April 2024, where the group met to discuss and finalise members’ papers on how to reform global governance. This meeting was accompanied by an event, *China’s Changing Relations with the Rest of the World* on 26 April 2024.

The Lloyd George family gift to Georgetown honors British Prime Minister David Lloyd George and his role in guiding World War I to a close and crafting a new post-war order.

# US – China Seminar Series



Image: kasmsov/iStock

Now in its fourth year, the Phelan US Centre Seminar Series on US-China Relations has hosted a range of expert speakers on important topics relating to the US-China relationship. These seminars have three broad themes: Geopolitics and strategic competition; Global supply chains, multinational enterprises and trade politics; and Technological innovation and domestic institutions.

**Series co-chairs:** David Soskice (LSE Department of Government) and Peter Trubowitz

## **US and China: Reviving Cooperation on Climate Change**

**Speaker** Lord Nicholas Stern (LSE Department of Economics)

**Date** 3 October 2023

## **The Bipolar Illusion: Why China Hawks are Wrong**

**Speaker** William Wohlforth (Dartmouth University)

**Date** 7 November 2023

## **The New China Playbook**

**Speaker** Keyu Jin (LSE Department of Economics)

**Date** 21 November 2023

## **The Future of US-China Competition: Risks without Rewards?**

**Speaker** Ashley Tellis (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace)

**Date** 16 January 2024

## **China Policy: The Limits of Transatlantic Convergence**

**Speaker** Mathieu Duchâtel (Institut Montaigne)

**Date** 13 February 2024

## **The Politics and Poetics of AI in the Age of Geopolitical Confrontation**

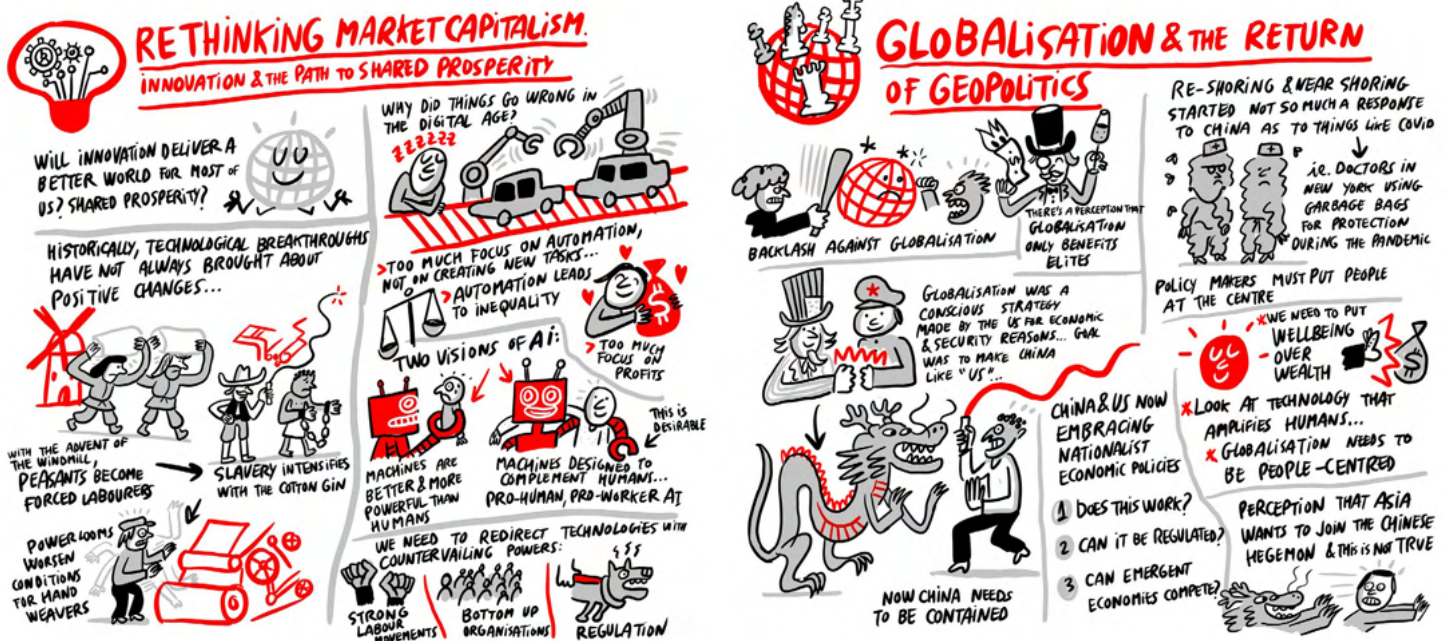
**Speaker** Bingchun Meng (LSE Department of Media and Communications)

**Date** 12 March 2024



Image: © 2024 Fei Wu

Bingchun Meng is Professor in the LSE Department of Media and Communications and Director of the LSE PhD Academy.



# The Future of Capitalism in an Age of Insecurity Conference

20-21 October 2023

On 20 to 21 October 2023, the Phelan US Centre hosted its flagship conference for the year, *The Future of Capitalism in an Age of Insecurity*, in the Great Hall of the Marshall Building at LSE. This conference brought together leading scholars and analysts to examine the effects of geopolitical turmoil, democratic discontent, anti-globalism, and technological change on capitalist economies. Panelists explored the role that governments, businesses and global institutions might play in helping to negotiate these challenges at the local, national, and global levels.

The conference also included an exhibition featuring the work and research of six PhD students from

across LSE departments on topics related to the conference theme.

## Keynote Event

The conference was opened by the keynote public event on 20 October, *Rethinking market capitalism: Innovation and the Path to Shared Prosperity*.

In the event, MIT's Professor Daron Acemoglu argued that modern market economies have focused excessively on automation and cost-cutting. What we need is not more innovation for eliminating jobs or intensifying surveillance, but a renewed focus on creating new tasks, providing better decision-making tools, and granting greater autonomy to workers. Good



Image © 2024 Pete Jobson/LSE

jobs, which pay high wages and deploy worker skills, are not only critical for productivity growth, but also essential for re-creating democratic citizenship. The event was chaired by Phelan US Centre Director, Professor Peter Trubowitz.



## Conference Panels

The second day of the conference on 21 October was opened by LSE's incoming President and Vice Chancellor Larry Kramer. The conference featured three panel roundtable sessions with academic experts with global perspectives on capitalism.

### PANEL ONE

#### Globalisation and the return of geopolitics

This panel considered the implications of mounting geopolitical rivalry and economic nationalism for global capitalism.

**Chair** Peter Trubowitz (LSE Phelan US Centre)

**Speakers** Michael Mastanduno (Dartmouth College), C. Raja Mohan (Asia Society), Anne-Marie Slaughter (New America)

### PANEL TWO

#### Populism and democratic capitalism

This panel explored the challenges of rebuilding democratic support for capitalism at a time of extraordinary political discontent and volatility.

**Chair** Stephanie Rickard (LSE Department of Government)

**Speakers** Sheri Berman (Barnard College, Columbia University), Ian Shapiro (Yale University), Luigi Zingales (University of Chicago)

### PANEL THREE

#### Global governance in an era of anti-globalism

This panel focused on whether and how global institutions might be reformed to make them more relevant and responsive to today's economic, technological, and environmental challenges.

**Chair** Leslie Vinjamuri (Chatham House and SOAS University of London)

**Speakers** G. John Ikenberry (Princeton University), David Luke (LSE Firoz Lalji Institute for Africa), Nita Rudra (Georgetown University)

## Conference Outputs

*The Future of Capitalism in an Age of Insecurity* also featured a live illustration, based on the keynote event and panel sessions, created by artist Jorge Martin.

Other conference outputs included a video of the conference highlights, podcast and video recordings of the keynote and panel sessions, and event reports from LSE master's students posted on the Phelan US Centre's USAPP blog. Short vox pop video interviews with conference attendees are also available on the Phelan US Centre's YouTube channel. The above resources can be found on the Phelan US Centre's [website](#).



# Spotlight on Centre Affiliates

## Dr Elizabeth Ingleson

Dr Elizabeth Ingleson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International History at LSE and a Centre Affiliate of the Phelan United States Centre. Dr Ingleson's research specialises in US foreign relations, US-China relations, capitalism, and labour. She currently serves on the editorial board of the journal *Cold War History*.

In 2023-24, Dr Ingleson continued her participation with the Phelan US Centre's UGRA programme, working with LSE Law School undergraduate, Tali-Aisha Bourhis, on the project, *From Engagement to Strategic Competition: US-China Relations, 1972-2023*. This

project explores the evolution of the United States' China policies over the past five decades. Along with previous Phelan US Centre UGRAs, this work has supported the research underpinning her second book, under contract with Bloomsbury Academic, *China and the United States since 1949: An International History*.

Dr Ingleson's first book, *Made in China: When US-China Interests Converged to Transform Global Trade*, was published by Harvard University Press in March 2024. *Made in China* examines how the United States and China rebuilt trade ties in the 1970s, after over twenty years of Cold War



isolation – and in the process unwittingly reshaped global capitalism.

On 7 May 2024, the Phelan US Centre held an event, launching Dr Ingleson's book in the Wolfson Theatre of the Cheng Kin Ku Building at LSE, and chaired by the Phelan US Centre Director, Professor Peter Trubowitz.

## Dr Rohan Mukherjee

Rohan Mukherjee is an Assistant Professor in the Department of International Relations at LSE and a Centre Affiliate of the Phelan United States Centre. He is a regular participant in the Centre's US-China Seminars as well as the Centre's Undergraduate Research Assistantship (UGRA) programme.

Through the latter, in 2023-24, as part of the Centre's UGRA programme, he worked with LSE undergraduate student Pranjali Goradia on the project, *Democratic Decline and Alliances*, which comparatively studied the response of the United States to democratic collapse in the Philippines (an ally) and India (a non-ally) in the middle of the Cold War.

Dr Mukherjee was also the co-recipient of a Small Conference Grant from the Centre, through which he co-organised a workshop on *US Nuclear Strategy in a Changing Indo-Pacific* with Centre Affiliates Dr Lauren Sukin and Dr Matthew Jones. The conference assembled experts from around the world at LSE in June 2024.

Dr Mukherjee's book, *Ascending Order: Rising Powers and the Politics of Status in International Institutions* (Cambridge University Press, 2022), has received three prestigious international awards: the 2024 T.V. Paul Best Book in Global International Relations Award from the International Studies Association (ISA), the 2023



Hedley Bull Prize from the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), and the 2023 Hague Journal of Diplomacy Book Award.

In January 2024, Dr Mukherjee joined the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as a Nonresident Scholar and the National Bureau of Asian Research in Washington, DC, as a Nonresident Fellow.



# Climate Change: America and the World Exhibition



Image: © 2023 Robert Irving/LSE

Former US Projects Assistant, Mohid Rehman Malik, views the *Climate Change: America and the World* exhibition during the exhibition's launch event, 6 November 2023.

From 6 November 2023 to 19 January 2024, the Phelan US Centre hosted the exhibition, *Climate Change: America and the World*.

Supported by the LSE Students' Union Sustainable Projects Fund and LSE Arts, the exhibition, which is based on the Centre's podcast of the same name, explored through six canvases the different ways climate change impacts the United States and the world. The exhibition featured the work of Carleen De Sözer, one of London's most skilled and varied aerosol and airbrush artists. The exhibition also displayed the work of the Phelan US Centre Arts Competition winner and runners up who are all LSE students and staff.

Each of the exhibition's canvases featured Carleen De Sözer's artwork based on the topic of each of the *Climate Change: America and the World* podcast episodes:

1. Climate Change and Global Responsibility
2. Climate Change, Migration and Refugee
3. Climate Change and Global Security
4. Climate Change and Race
5. The Cost of Climate Change in America
6. The Future of Climate Change Politics

During its initial run, the *Climate Change: America and the World* exhibition was located in LSE's Atrium Gallery. Following a launch event, the exhibition was viewed by over 2,500 people including during LSE's Autumn 2023 graduation. The exhibition was viewed by LSE graduates, and also by their parents and other family members, and their friends.

Following the conclusion of the exhibition's run, the canvases have found a new home with the new All City Arts College and will have an ongoing legacy at a venue which focuses on art and social responsibility and celebrates young people and the creative contributions they can make, an appropriate theme given the exhibition's topic.



Images: © 2023 Robert Irving/LSE

Tarushi Agrawal, winner of the Phelan US Centre's 2022-23 Arts Competition with students during the *Climate Change: America and the World* exhibition launch event, LSE Atrium Gallery, 6 November 2023.

# Phelan US Centre Affiliate Conferences

The Phelan US Centre provides funding for Centre Affiliates organising conferences on US-related research topics or themes. These conferences are designed to bring together up to a dozen scholars from the US, Europe, and LSE to present and discuss ongoing research.

## US Nuclear Strategy in a Changing Indo-Pacific

**Academic Leads** Matthew Jones (LSE Department of International History), Rohan Mukherjee (LSE Department of International Relations), and Lauren Sukin (LSE Department of International Relations)

**Date** 7 June 2024

Recent years have seen significant changes in the security dynamics of the Indo-Pacific region, particularly in nuclear posture and strategy. Some of these changes have been quantitative, such as China's ongoing nuclear buildup and North Korea's advancing nuclear capability. Others have been qualitative, such as the evolving nuclear doctrines of India and Pakistan. New relationships centred on nuclear or nuclear-based deterrence are emerging, including the AUKUS agreement involving the United Kingdom, United States, Australia, and now France, as well as the Washington Declaration between the United States and South Korea.

There is also increasing engagement between NATO and states in the Indo-Pacific, such as South Korea and Japan.

Moreover, conversations around nuclear proliferation, such as in South Korea, have taken on renewed urgency due to growing tensions between China, on the one hand, and the United States and its regional allies and partners, on the other. Meanwhile, as Russia issues nuclear threats during its war in Ukraine, Europe is once again a point of great-power contestation and potential nuclear escalation.

This one-day conference, hosted by the Phelan US Centre, brought together over a dozen scholars and analysts from the US, UK, and Europe to connect academic research and policy-relevant thinking on practical and contemporary issues surrounding nuclear security in the Indo-Pacific. The conference also considered how regional changes are producing risks and opportunities for the United States as a superpower outside of the region, and it assessed how and how well Washington's nuclear strategy is responding to changes in the security environment of the Indo-Pacific.



Image: Evgeniy/Shkolenko/iStock

## Innovation and Inequality in Europe and the US

**Academic Leads** David Soskice (LSE Department of Government), Michael Storper (LSE Department of Geography and Environment), and Neil Lee (LSE Department of Geography and Environment)

**Date** 17 to 18 June 2024

Europe has an innovation problem. It has been a second-mover in innovation since the 1970s. Over the past half century, America has become the absolute leader in the development of disruptive, market and lifestyle-defining, general-purpose technologies. The US has reaped the benefits of this leadership through overall economic growth and the creation of the world's most highly capitalised firms. High shares of very high-wage and high-skill employment have also led to the accumulation of personal wealth for many. This leadership has also reinforced investor dominance in leading-edge US start-ups.

But the US is also the developed country with the highest level and greatest recent growth in interpersonal and interregional economic inequalities. While America is an innovation leader, its social progress in many ways has stalled, with sharp inequalities in social mobility, education, and health outcomes. Europe, including the UK, represents a different pathway to the New Economy. Much of this difference in inequality is due to the contrasting institutions and policies of welfare statism and guided economies of the two continents. A great deal can also be linked to differing occupational structures, between the US and Europe, shaped by their innovation profiles.

For the US, we must ask whether its radical innovation leadership can be sustained with lower wage premiums for skilled occupations in general, and for new work in particular. We do not know the degree to which these

features of the American economy are productive or rent extracting. Understanding the precise relationship between inequalities and the social models which have been adopted, and radical innovation, has now become urgent because of a changing world context and how it affects Europe's future.

This two-day conference hosted by the Phelan US Centre, brought together leading thinkers from academia and policy to discuss these issues. With contributions from leading researchers, the conference aimed to focus the research agenda by establishing existing knowledge and knowledge gaps in this area. The conference also began the process of building a coalition of researchers working on these questions in both the US and Europe. One of the conference's potential outputs is an edited collection of contributions on these topics with a high-profile press.



Image: ©2019 LSE/Nigel Stead

Looking up at LSE Pankhurst House, Fawcett House, and the Centre Building from Clement's Inn. Phelan US Centre Affiliate Conferences were held in the Research Centre Meeting Suite in Fawcett House.



## Digital Content Innovation

In 2023-24 the Phelan US Centre's digital platforms continued to support our aim to be a hub for evidence-based academic commentary on the United States. Our digital platforms, the Centre's podcast series, *The Ballpark*, and our daily blog, USAPP - USA Politics and Policy, support our events through interviews and blog posts with expert speakers drawn from a wide range of disciplines. These platforms also provide a space for academics, activists, and policymakers from across the US, UK and globally to connect their research and commentary with a worldwide audience.

# USA Politics and Policy (USAPP) blog

In 2023-24 the Phelan US Centre's regular blog, **USAPP – USA Politics and Policy** has continued to be a hub for evidence-based commentary and research summaries on social science topics relating to the United States and its role in the world. USAPP hosted over 200 original articles in 2023 and gained nearly 500,000 visitors. Academics, researchers, and activists continued to work with the USAPP team to publish articles written in an accessible format to maximise the dissemination of their work to a wide international audience. This year has also seen increasing numbers of contributors write articles in collaboration with undergraduate students, and USAPP continues to be a venue for LSE PhD students and Early Career Researchers to promote their scholarship and work.

USAPP has continued its coverage of US politics with the ongoing series *The 2024 Elections*. With more than 20 articles from expert academics from the US and UK, the series has provided timely commentary and

analysis on the unfolding US presidential election. USAPP has also continued to work in tandem with Phelan US Centre projects and engagement by posting articles from speakers who take part in the Centre's series of high-profile events, event reports from LSE master's students, and hosting the winning and two runner-up essays in the Centre's Capitalism Essay competition for master's students.

## USAPP Impact

With over 100 citations in academic articles, and mentions in policy reports from the United Nations, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, this year USAPP has continued to be a respected source of commentary and rigorous academic research. In 2023-24 USAPP articles were mentioned in popular media outlets such as **Time**, **The Guardian**, **CNN Business**, **The New York Times**, **Salon**, and **The Atlantic**.



# The Ballpark podcast

**The Ballpark podcast** is the Phelan US Centre's regular audio series which explains current issues in US politics, policy, and society to a wide, non-academic audience through interviews with expert commentators from LSE and beyond. This year, we continued our interview podcasts with speakers in the Phelan US Centre's public events programme and US-China seminar series, including Dr Ashley Tellis (Carnegie Endowment for International Peace), Professor William C. Wohlforth (Dartmouth College), and Professor Jason Casellas (University of Houston). We also spoke to other leading scholars such as Professor Pranab Bardhan (University of California, Berkeley), Professor Theda Skocpol (Harvard University), and Professor Jennifer Carlson (Arizona State University).

With over 140,000 listens to our audio since *The Ballpark* launched in 2016, this year *The Ballpark* has moved to a biweekly release schedule and published more than 20 "Extra

Innings" episodes, bringing more accessible content to a wide audience. This year *The Ballpark* collaborated with LSE's award-winning *IQ* podcast which examined the role of the United States as a global power, and drew on interviews with Centre Affiliates, Professor John Van Reenen (LSE Department of Economics) and Dr Elizabeth Ingleson (LSE Department of International History).

## The Ballpark and supporting the student experience

*The Ballpark* continues to support our student programmes with interviews with our PhD Summer Research Grant recipients, providing them with the opportunity to promote their research and to experience taking part in an interview aimed at a wider and non-academic audience. *The Ballpark* has also released roundtable interview recordings with the winner and runners-up in our master's students essay competition.



Image: © Chris Richards

In April 2024, the Phelan US Centre released a *Ballpark* podcast interview with Professor Jennifer Carlson (Arizona State University) which discussed her new book, *Merchants of the Right: Gun Sellers and the Crisis of American Democracy*.

Master's students essay competition winner and runners-up outside the UK Parliament. Left to right: Yazmin Baptiste (runner-up), David Millman (winner) and Manickam Valliappan (runner-up).

## Student Programmes

This year, the Phelan US Centre has continued and expanded our work to support the LSE student experience and to encourage early career scholars to conduct interdisciplinary research relevant to the challenges now facing the US. Our Undergraduate Research Assistantship and Phelan US Centre PhD Summer Research Grants supported more students than ever in 2023-24, and our essay competition for master's students entered its second year.

# Undergraduate Research Assistantships

Now in its seventh year, the Phelan US Centre's Undergraduate Research Assistantship (UGRA) programme pairs students from across LSE departments to work with our Centre Affiliates on their research or project. In 2023-24, 12 undergraduate students have partnered with academics to support them with literature reviews and library research, creating text databases, reviewing archival resources, and designing and analysing survey experiments. This year, five UGRA students presented on their projects to the British Conference of Undergraduate Research, which was hosted by LSE on 25 to 26 April 2024.

## Research projects supported in 2023-24

### 1. The Gender and Racial Dynamics of Night and Micro Work in the UK and US

Research Assistant: Cármen Pegas, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method  
Faculty Research Lead: Professor Paul Apostolidis, Department of Government

### 2. Incumbency and Infrastructure for Climate Change Adaptation in the Coastal United States

Research Assistant: Freya Blackmore, Department of Government  
Faculty Research Lead: Dr Rebecca Elliott, Department of Social Policy

### 3. From Engagement to Strategic Competition: US-China Relations, 1972-2023

Research Assistant: Tali-Aisha Bourhis, LSE Law School  
Faculty Research Lead: Dr Elizabeth Ingleson, Department of International History

“

This was a one-of-a-kind experience, the likes of which are otherwise unattainable for bachelor's students interested in research.

Tali-Aisha Bourhis, Undergraduate Research Assistant, 2023-24

2023-24 Undergraduate Research Assistantship programme participants: Top row left to right: Claire Oh (Department of International Relations Research Assistant), Maryam Auwalu, Freya Blackmore, Pranjali Goradia, Khushi Vajpeyi, Evelyne Ong, Ayush Das. Bottom row (l-r): Marta Grzana, Cármen Pegas, Georgia Rose McKerracher, Tali-Aisha Bourhis.



Undergraduate Research Assistant Evelyne Ong spoke at the British Conference of Undergraduate Research on 25 April 2024.

### 4. Imagining “Progress” in the Chicago Police Department, 1865-2023

Research Assistant: Maryam Auwalu, Department of Geography and Environment  
Faculty Research Lead: Dr Johann Koehler, Department of Social Policy

### 5. The Nuclear Revolution and Great Power Competition

Research Assistants: Ayush Das, Department of International Relations, and Evelyne Ong, Department of Statistics  
Faculty Research Lead: Professor Jeff Legro, Phelan US Centre



### 6. Anglo-American Financial Cooperation in the 20th Century

Research Assistant: Marta Grzana, Department of Management  
Faculty Research Lead: Dr James Morrison, Department of International Relations

### 7. Democratic Difference, Decline, and Authoritarianism

Research Assistant: Pranjali Goradia, Department of International History and Department of International Relations (joint honours)  
Faculty Research Lead: Dr Rohan Mukherjee, Department of International Relations

### 8. How US Political and Economic Geography Shapes US Foreign Policy

Research Assistant: Ahmed Zeerak Rana, Department of Government  
Faculty Research Lead: Professor Peter Trubowitz, Department of International Relations and Phelan United States Centre

### 9. Nuclear Guarantees and US Alliance Politics

Research Assistants: Khushi Vajpeyi, Department of Government, and Georgia Rose McKerracher, Department of International Relations  
Faculty Research Lead: Dr Lauren Sukin, Department of International Relations

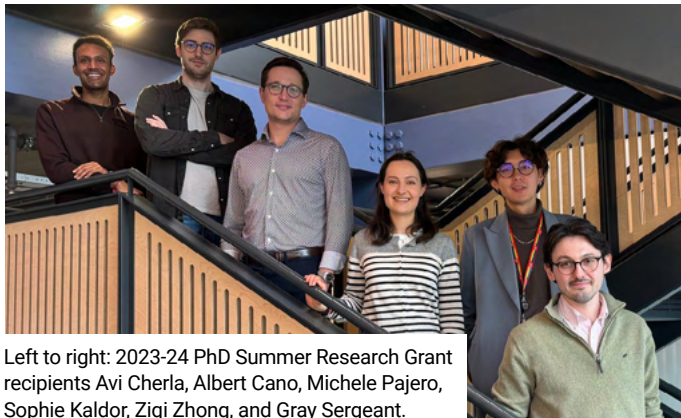
### 10. The State of the States

Research Assistant: Jason Clark, Department of International History  
Faculty Research Leads: Professor Peter Trubowitz and Chris Gilson, Phelan United States Centre



# Centre PhD Summer Research Grants

2023-24 was the sixth year for the Phelan US Centre's PhD Summer Research Grant Scheme. Grants support PhD students from across LSE departments to undertake internationally-oriented research on the US. These grants encourage the development of LSE's early career scholars, providing them with resources to support their research activities.



Left to right: 2023-24 PhD Summer Research Grant recipients Avi Cherla, Albert Cano, Michele Pajero, Sophie Kaldor, Ziqi Zhong, and Gray Sergeant.

“

It is a fantastic opportunity, not only to fund a research project but also to join a vibrant community and benefit from the mentorship of the Centre.

Juliet Nil-Uraz, PhD Grant Recipient, 2022-23

## Research Grants in 2024

**1. American Abortion Access and Advance: How Competition and Innovation Saved Lives And Money** Ola Aboukhsaiwan, Department of Economics

**2. Communication of Information about New Drugs: The Role of the US Food and Drug Administration in Protecting Public Health**

Avi Cherla, Department of Health Policy

**3. Post-Traumatic Peace. Liberal Peacebuilding, Transgenerational Trauma, and Identity Formation in Post-Brexit Northern Ireland**

Albert Cullell Cano, Department of International Relations

**4. Narrative Thinking and Presidential Choice: The Story Behind US Grand Strategy Under Uncertainty**

Sophie Anna Kaldor, Department of International Relations

**5. Privacy Regulation and Firm Innovation: Evidence from**

**US Patents**

Susanne Klausning, Department of Management

**6. The International Thought of Arnold J. Toynbee: The World and the West from the “Long” First World War to the Global Cold War**

Ryoya Mizuno, Department of International History

**7. Fascist Rule and Oppression in North Africa: A Comparative Study of the Italian and French Empires at War, 1940-43**

Michele Pajero, Department of International History

**8. Between Two Chinas: Reconciling Anglo-American China Policies 1957-72**

Gray Daniel Sergeant, Department of International History

**9. Escaping the Green Dilemma: Marketing Interventions on Sustainability Adoption**

Ziqi Zhong, Department of Management

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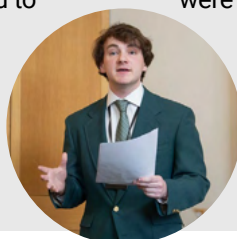
Ziqi Zhong, Department of Management

**14. The International Thought of Arnold J. Toynbee: The World and the West from the “Long” First World War to the Global Cold War**

Ryoya Mizuno, Department of International History

## Essay Competition for Master's Students Presents in Parliament

Now in its second year, the 2023-24 master's students essay competition had the prompt: “How should the United States work to shape the future of capitalism in this age of insecurity?” Entrants were encouraged to interpret this prompt from a variety of interdisciplinary perspectives. The essay judging panel included Centre Affiliates Professor Stephanie Rickard and Dr James Morrison, and Centre Director, Professor Peter Trubowitz.

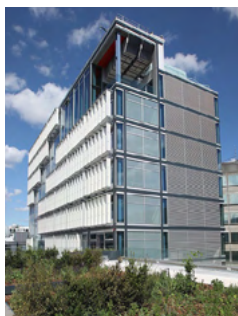


The winning essay, “To save global capitalism, the US needs to focus on the ‘places that don't matter’.” by David Millman (LSE Department of Geography and Environment), received a £500 prize. The runners up, Yazmin Baptiste (LSE Department of Methodology) and Manickam Valliappan (LSE Department of Geography and Environment), each received a £250 prize. All three essays were posted on the Centre's USAPP blog.

In March 2024, David Millman presented his essay to The Rt Hon Ranil Jayawardena, MP, Lord Fox and Lord Elliott, members of the British-American Parliamentary Group (BAPG), at the UK Parliament in Westminster.

# Annual Report Statistics

## The Phelan US Centre in numbers



### Public Lectures and Exhibition (2023-24)

Average audience	442
Total number of countries reached	25
Average number of countries reached per event	13
Exhibition visitors	2,500
Total audio downloads	19,433

### Research and Centre Affiliates (2023-24)

Centre Affiliate journal articles published	43
Centre Affiliate media appearances	76

### Podcasts (2023-24)

Centre podcast episodes released	31
Total number of listens (2016-24)	153,917

### Social Media Followers

X (Twitter)	7,842
Instagram	1,332
Facebook	3,272
LinkedIn	1,707
Total followers across all platforms	14,153

### USAPP Blog (2023 Calendar Year)

Total original posts	209
Pageviews	487,241
US-based users	272,855

Please note that all Annual Report statistics were accurate at the time of publication.



LSE, CKK Building  
Image: © 2012 Nigel Stead

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 LSE United States Centre

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