



International
Inequalities Institute

2025

Annual Report



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MISSION STATEMENT

The International Inequalities Institute (III) at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is a centre for rigorous research into the nature, causes and consequences of the multiple inequalities afflicting our world today. Because social, economic, political and cultural inequalities are inherently intertwined, the Institute welcomes methods and approaches from across the social sciences and encourages interdisciplinary dialogue. Because those inequalities inevitably cut across national boundaries, so our work is international in scope. We believe that rigorous research can and should engage with practice and policy, and we seek to promote linkages between theory, empirics and practice.

These are our core values:

- **Rigour:** we seek to promote research of the highest academic standards, all the more so because we intend it to inform practice and the policy debate.
- **Interdisciplinarity:** based at one of the world's premier social science universities, we believe that bringing together scholarly perspectives from across the social sciences enriches the analysis of inequality in its multiple dimensions.
- **An international scope:** through the ebbs and flows of globalisation, the world is increasingly interconnected and so are its inequalities. We promote research on inequality around the world, ranging from the local to the global in scope.
- **Engagement:** we believe research can be rigorous and intellectually independent while simultaneously informing and being informed by the challenges of practice and policy.
 - As a core part of that engagement, we provide a platform to support students and Atlantic Fellows from across the globe who are passionate about addressing inequality. We learn from their experiences, help them enhance their knowledge, expand their repertoires and provide them with confidence and support.

DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

Professor Francisco H G Ferreira

This year marks the LSE International Inequalities Institute's (III) 10th anniversary, which is being celebrated by a series of events and workshops that showcase the broad thematic range of our research, as well as the reach and diversity of our partnerships.

The Politics of Inequality research programme held a wonderful closing conference on campus last December, featuring research findings from their work over the last four years. (That programme has now "graduated" to Network status – as did the Public Economics of Inequality programme in July 2025. We are hugely grateful to Professors Ellen Helsper, Armine Ishkanian and Johannes Spinnewijn for their leadership of those two very successful III research programmes.)

In January, a strong III contingent taught at the Eighteenth Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare in Italy. In February, we held our second joint III-Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) conference, this time hosted in Luxembourg by our partners at the LIS Cross-National Data Centre, featuring two great keynote lectures and 79 research paper presentations, as well as

a lively discussion about Branko Milanovic's (then) latest book, *Visions of Inequality*, with the author himself.

The month of May saw two excellent workshops organised by our two newest research programmes: the Gender Justice and the Wellbeing Economy programme held a closed workshop on, "Drivers of ill-being: crafting feminist pathways to the wellbeing economy". Weeks later, the Perceptions of Inequality research programme hosted an international research workshop on, "Perceptions of inequality", featuring a rich array of papers from various disciplinary perspectives. A special issue of the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* will feature some of them. In June, a few of us headed south to Brasilia, where the III co-organised a Winter School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality. It was a joint venture

with the Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility at the University of Chicago, and Brazil's own Instituto de Pesquisa Economica Aplicada.

Taken together, these events featured a range of very interesting, often novel, work on various aspects of inequality by students and researchers from all five continents, highlighting the strong ongoing interest in the topic around the world. The high point of our 10th anniversary "celebrations" was a conference on "New directions in inequality research", which took place on the LSE campus in September, featuring 72 papers selected from more than twice that number of submissions. We also welcomed two great keynote speakers – Professors Leslie McCall and Thomas Piketty – back to LSE.

Alongside all these fabulous academic gatherings, work has continued on the AFSEE Programme, on the master's in Inequalities and Social Science, and on our doctoral seminar. So has our regular Tuesday Seminar Series and our very popular public events, including the Eva Colorni Memorial Lecture given by Professor Lea Ypi and featuring Professor Amartya



It is enough to read the news these days to know that work on understanding and fighting inequalities is more important and urgent than ever"

Sen as discussant and Professor Nicholas Stern as Chair. In the following pages, you will also read about our new blog, *LSE Inequalities*, which has had a remarkably successful first year, with over 100 posts already, and download data that places it among the top five LSE blogs. The blog plays a key role in fostering wider public debate, by providing clear, crisp, and accessible summaries of more technical research work to a general audience – as well as occasional commentary and opinion pieces.

Underpinning all of the above, of course, is the rigorous research on the nature, causes and consequences of inequality that is the day-to-day work for both our in-house researchers and our faculty associates from across LSE departments. In the pages that follow you can read about work recently published in the *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, the *British Journal of Sociology*, the *Journal of the European Economic Association*, the *Journal of Public Economics*, the *Review of Income and Wealth*, and the *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, to mention just a few. This year also saw the publication of a special issue (or Supplement) of the open-access journal *Oxford Open Economics* dedicated to the Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review (LACIR), which included all 28 papers produced during the project.

As in previous years, this research has continued to have impact beyond the academic publications themselves, important though these are. Our associates Arun Advani and Andy Summers, for example, whose work within the Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice research programme has influenced the taxation policy of



two successive UK governments, were recognised with major Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and philanthropic grants this year. This has enabled them to launch a new Centre for the Analysis of Taxation (CenTax), based at the University of Warwick. We are delighted to host their "London office", and a number of their researchers, here at the Institute. We have also continued to do important work with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, including on how different frames and narratives on wealth inequality help shape the public debate.

I am also pleased to report that some of our senior colleagues have been recognised for their work this year. Professor Mike Savage, my predecessor as Director and just recently retired from the Department of Sociology, was this year elected an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (where he joins Professor David Soskice, another leading III associate). Professor Naila Kabeer, one of our research programme leaders, has recently been appointed to the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP, and I am humbled to have been selected as a member

of the United Nations University Council and as President-Elect of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (ECINEQ).

I take all these as indications that we continue to have a strong and active team at the Institute. I am certain that my colleagues are more than equal to the task of taking the III to the next level over the next 10 years, and I look forward to continuing to work with them for at least the first few. It is enough to read the news these days to know that work on understanding and fighting inequalities is more important and urgent than ever.

I hope that you will take some time to find out more about our work in the pages that follow and hopefully join us in that fight.

THE III AT 10: NEW DIRECTIONS IN INEQUALITY RESEARCH

The III celebrated its 10th anniversary with a two-day conference called 'The III at 10: New Directions in Inequality Research,' which was held on 18 – 19 September 2025 at LSE. The conference featured 2 keynote lectures, 72 research presentations, a poster session and an evening panel discussion with over 100 attendees across the conference and over 800 members of the public attending the keynotes both online and in-person.

Sessions on the programme were filled with papers selected from submissions to a widely circulated call for papers, and organised around the four ongoing research programmes at the III:

- Gender Justice and the Wellbeing Economy
- Opportunity, Mobility and the Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality
- Perceptions of Inequality
- Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice

as well as the Global Inequalities Observatory and our four research networks:

- Cities, Jobs, and Economic Change
- Global Economies of Care
- Politics of Inequality
- Public Economies of Inequality

Our overarching goal was to use the conference as an opportunity to help chart a path forward for research on inequality that places rigour, interdisciplinarity and an international scope at its heart.

THE PROGRAMME

The programme consisted of 24 broadly thematic sessions, organised around nine tracks corresponding with the III's research agenda. Papers were selected from over 165 submissions to our call for papers issued in February 2025 and gathered researchers at the early stages of their careers as well as senior academics from around the world. Topics covered in these sessions included work on elites and tax justice, intergenerational mobility, inequality of opportunity, the dimensions of race, gender, and caste, and advancements in measurement and methods in inequality research.

We were honoured to be joined by Professors Leslie McCall (Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, CUNY) and Thomas Piketty (Paris School of Economics) to deliver our two keynote lectures. Prof McCall opened the conference with her talk 'If not government,



Panel discussion at III conference, 18 September 2025

Photo credit: Carl Goodwin Photography

then what? A three-part typology of redistributive preferences', presenting findings from a global study of public preferences for government redistribution through income taxes and transfers.

In 'Global inequality in historical and comparative perspective', Prof Piketty presented preliminary results from the Global Justice Project, building on analysis and proposals set out in his book *A Brief History of Equality*, extending them into a broader and more comprehensive global framework. The keynote was open to the public, amassing 400 in-person guests and over 550 online attendees.

A panel discussion on the future of inequalities research brought together Professors Facundo Alvaredo (LSE, Paris School of Economics), Anne Phillips (LSE), Steven Durlauf (Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, University of Chicago), Larry Kramer (LSE), and chair Armine Ishkanian (LSE). Each panellist offered an intervention on what they view as the main priorities for the development of inequalities research, as well as the gaps in existing approaches in the field, before opening a wide-ranging discussion with the audience.

In bringing together researchers from a variety of disciplines and cultural contexts, the conference highlighted the importance of collaboration and meaningful, sustained engagement to better identify effective strategies to reduce inequality.



Photo credit: Carl Goodwin Photography

Reception for III Conference, 19 September 2025



Photo credit: Carl Goodwin Photography

Professor Thomas Piketty at III Conference, 19 September 2025



Photo credit: Carl Goodwin Photography

Poster session at III conference, 19 September 2025

RESEARCH



“

Our research is broadly organised into five main programmes, three research networks and one cross-cutting observatory.”

GENDER JUSTICE AND THE WELLBEING ECONOMY

Led by Professor Naila Kabeer and Dr Ania Plomien



Photo credit: Stephane Bidouze via Shutterstock

The main achievement of the past year has been the engagement of programme network members in the task of translating the overall objectives of the programme into a set of themes that will help to focus our work.

We accomplished this through in-person and virtual exchanges which centred on the working papers they were producing as contributions to this effort. A programme workshop was held at LSE in May 2025 which brought partners together for the first time and allowed for a collective discussion of their papers and the longer-term agenda of the programme. We agreed that the interwoven concepts of rights, responsibilities and care (an “eco-social contract”) provided us with a normative framework for assessing feminist pathways to a wellbeing economy. In terms of our research agenda, we agreed to focus on the policy analysis of the care economy, social protection and fiscal politics, but we also planned to strengthen our advocacy efforts through the exploration of how ideas about wellbeing are understood in the context of everyday life.

WORKING PAPERS

Sixteen working papers have been agreed; some are completed while others are at various stages of work-in-progress. They deal with different aspects of the programme agenda. As the first in this series, Professor Kabeer is working on an overview paper (“Gender justice and the wellbeing economy: concepts, findings and transitional pathways”) which will lay out the broad parameters of our research agenda. Another working paper (“What matters to people: a review of the literature on subjective wellbeing”) led by Dr Giulia Ferrari will provide the starting point for developing research into people’s understanding of wellbeing.

WORKSHOPS/PANELS

We have had two workshops directly related to the programme. The first was held on 24 January 2025 and was organised as a collaboration between LSE, the Robert Bosch

Academy and the Africa Policy Research Institute (APRI) in Berlin. Blog posts about the workshop have been posted on the websites of the Robert Bosch Academy, the APRI and the Gender Justice and the Wellbeing Economy programme.¹

The second workshop was organised by the Gender Justice and the Wellbeing Economy programme at LSE on 1 May to 2 May 2025. It provided an opportunity for network members to present their working papers to the group, to get comments and feedback and to discuss the future direction of the programme. It included a public event on the afternoon of the first of May. A report on the workshop by Dr Sophie Legros will be posted shortly on the website.

Network members have also participated in other public forums.

Professor Diane Elson and Professor Naila Kabeer spoke at the 11th plenary meeting in New York on 17 March 2025, the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, a high-level interactive dialogue. They also spoke at the roundtable organised at the 2025 conference of the Development Studies Association on “Building bridges: synergies between feminist

1 Robert Bosch Academy, ‘Gender, Wealth, and Wellbeing: Promising Pathways to a Just Transition’. Published on ROBERTBOSCHACADEMY.DE

economics and development studies in times of crisis". Dr Deepta Chopra and Dr Sophie Legros gave presentations at the UN Expert Group Meeting on "Care in times of war, conflict and crises" in Cairo, June 2025.

Professor Radhika Balakrishnan spoke at a Special Session panel on "Normative frameworks for social justice" at the International Labour Organization (ILO) 9th Regulating for Decent Work Conference on 3 July 2025.

Professor Diane Elson was a panellist in the UN Women Expert Group Meeting on "Reinvigorating gender responsive budgeting", Istanbul 18 to 19 February 2025.

We also organised a roundtable of network members at the 25th annual conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics (IAFFE), at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, in July 2025. The theme of the conference was Social Justice through Solidarity. Our roundtable was called, "More in common? Building bridges for a gender-just transition". Professor Deepta Chopra also organised a panel at IAFFE on the gender backlash in relation to the care economy.

PUBLIC ROLES

Professor Kabeer has been appointed a member of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP which will be reporting to the Secretary-General later this year.²

Professor Kabeer was also appointed a member of the UN Women's Leadership Network.³

MEDIA

"Placing gender justice at the heart of the wellbeing economy", this blog post for the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) series was co-authored by Dr Ania Plomien and Professor Kabeer and lays out the overall rationale for our programme.⁴

CARE-CLIMATE NEXUS

Network members have contributed to a series of blog posts on the care-climate nexus for online newsletter *The Conversation*.⁵ This was organised by the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand.

Radhika Balakrishnan: "GDP's economic focus is outdated – a new measure should account for unpaid labour, planet health"⁶

Diane Elson: "Economic policies encourage the careless use of people and planet. Creating caring economies is the answer"⁷

Naila Kabeer, Deepta Chopra and Chung-Ah Baek: "Women are seen as 'saviours' or 'victims' in climate change debates: why this is a problem"⁸ This was picked up and translated into German by the online newsletter *ClimateTable*.⁹

Julia Taylor, Imraan Valodia, Katrina Lehmann-Grube, Sarah Cook and Somali Cerise: "Climate change: women's role in the economy is key to a just transition"¹⁰

An animated version of a lecture given by Professor Radhika Balakrishnan on the theme of her working paper "What is the economy for? The need for a paradigm shift" has been uploaded on our website.¹¹

2 United Nations, 'UN Secretary-General appoints High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP'. Published on UN.ORG

3 Women in Leadership Publications, 'Women in leadership'. Published on CLOUD.3DISSUE.COM

4 LSE Inequalities, 'Placing gender justice at the heart of the wellbeing economy'. Published on BLOGS.LSE.AC.UK

5 The Conversation, 'The Conversation Africa'. Published on THECONVERSATION.COM

6 Scroll, 'GDP's economic focus is outdated – a new measure should account for unpaid labour, planet health'. Published on SCROLL.IN

7 The Conversation, 'Economic policies encourage the careless use of people and the planet. Creating caring economies is the answer'. Published on THECONVERSATION.COM

8 The Conversation, 'Women are seen as 'saviours' or 'victims' in climate change debates: why this is a problem'. Published on THECONVERSATION.COM

9 Table Briefings, 'Klimawandel: Sind Frauen Retterinnen oder Opfer? Warum diese Klischees problematisch sind'. Published on TABLE.MEDIA

10 The Conversation, 'Climate change: women's role in the economy is key to a just transition'. Published on THECONVERSATION.COM

11 Focus on the Global South, 'Geopolitics and Globalization: A Feminist Reading and Critique from Southeast Asia'. Published on YOUTUBE.COM

HIGHLIGHTS

Workshop: Drivers of ill-being: crafting feminist pathways to the well-being economy

The Gender Justice and the Wellbeing Economy programme organised a two-day workshop at LSE on 1 May and 2 May. It was divided into a half-day event that was open to the public while the rest of the two days was internal to the programme. The workshop brought network members together for the first time to discuss draft working papers which touched on different themes of the programme agenda. These included a comparison of the impact of private provision of basic needs such as care services, housing and social protection in contexts where the state had once taken responsibility for them and in contexts where they had always been left to private providers – landlords, patrons, employers and so on. There was exploration of how gender mediated the relationship between climate change and wellbeing with the focus on health, livelihoods and child marriage. A number of presentations dealt with policy issues – the gendered politics of fiscal space, how selective definitions of care had been incorporated into mainstream policies and the limitations of macro-economic models of the economy that excluded unpaid care and ecological services. Finally,



"Drivers of ill-being" workshop at LSE, 1-2 May

there were a number of conceptual papers – distinguishing between the ethics of care and the politics of social reproduction, redefining the social contract to accommodate the rights of both human and non-human forms of life and reflecting on the notion of abundance in an era when growth imperative was being questioned. Deliberations among network members helped to delineate ideas about rights, responsibilities and the ethics of care as a normative framework for assessing progress to a gender-just wellbeing economy. They also helped to consolidate the thematic focus on the care economy, on livelihoods and social protection, on outlining what a just macro-economic framework would look like and on exploring how perceptions of wellbeing might differ by class and identity.

Gender wealth and wellbeing: promising pathways to a just transition

Workshop organised by the Robert Bosch Academy



Photo credit: amdadphoto via Shutterstock

On 24 January 2025, Professor Naila Kabeer and Dr Grace Mbungu collaborated with the Robert Bosch Academy to organise a workshop for 20 academics, policymakers and civil society practitioners in order to explore the gender dimensions of the two major challenges of our time – rising inequality and accelerating climate change – within a unified framework.

The key takeaway from this discussion was the systemic nature of gender norms: they do not only influence personal choices, they shape policies, economic structures and access to climate resources. Consequently, addressing gender inequality requires more than token inclusion, it demands a radical restructuring of economic and financial priorities, political representation, and climate justice strategies. Women must be central to the conversations on economic and climate solutions. A just transition cannot be built on the same foundations that created their exclusion in the first place.¹²

12 Robert Bosch Academy, 'Gender, Wealth, and Wellbeing: Promising Pathways to a Just Transition'. Published on ROBERTBOSCHACADEMY.DE

More in common? Building bridges for a gender-just transition

Panel for 25th IAFEE conference 3 to 5 July 2025

Participants: Professor Naila Kabeer, LSE; Professor James Heintz, University of Massachusetts; Dr Luiza Nassif, State University of Campinas; Professor Imraan Valodia, University of the Witwatersrand; Haris Gazdar, Collective for Social Science Research.

The programme roundtable of network members at the 25th annual conference of the International Association for Feminist Economics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, in July 2025. The theme of the conference was Social Justice through Solidarity. Our roundtable was called, "More in common? Building bridges for a gender-just transition".

The roundtable discussed the impact of climate on the gender justice movement. More than any of the growing injustices that characterise the current neo-liberal economy, the accelerating pace of climate change and the existential threat it presents to people and the planet has brought home the need to shift to a more sustainable economic alternative. For example, to abandon the profit motive as the driver of all economic activity and to find a way to balance respect for planetary boundaries and the promotion of human wellbeing. However, if the transition to an alternative paradigm is to be a just one, that

addresses the injustices of the present system, including gender injustices, it will not be easy to achieve. It will have to curtail the relentless drive for wealth accumulation by those who already own a disproportionate share of the world's wealth and who will not accept brakes on this process without a fight. But it will also require sacrifices on the part of many ordinary people who nevertheless consume more than a fair share of the earth's resources if those who consume far less are to secure a fairer share. And it will require dismantling the intersectional privileges that can pit these ordinary people against each other. We desperately need a shared vision of a sustainable alternative system if we are to know what direction we should take and if we are to mobilise to move towards it. There is a great deal that divides people across the world depending on where they are located, divisions about the future role of growth, responses to climate-driven migration, financing the transition to a low-carbon economy particularly in the world's poorest countries. Some of these divisions may play out within the international feminist economics community. But do we have more in common than we know, enough to help us move towards a shared vision? What are the ideas, beliefs and values that might help us to collectively build bridges from where we are today to where we want to be?



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MEMBERS

INTERNAL TEAM

Emeritus Professor Naila Kabeer, Professor of Gender and Development, Department of International Development and Faculty, LSE III

Dr Ania Plomien, Associate Professor in Gender and Social Science and Deputy Head of Department (Research), Department of Gender Studies and Faculty, LSE III

Dr Giulia Ferrari, Visiting Fellow, LSE Health

Professor Tim Forsythe, Professor of Environment and Development and Head of Department, Department of International Development

Dr Sophie Legros, Visiting Fellow, Department of International Development and ESRC Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Methodology

Dr Kasia Paprocki, Associate Professor of Environment, Department of Geography and Environment

Dr Kate Steward, Project Manager, LSE III

EXTERNAL TEAM

Dr Sajeda Amin, Senior International Consultant, Population Council

Professor Emeritus Radhika Balakrishnan, Professor of Women's and Gender and Sexuality Studies, Rutgers University

Professor Deepta Chopra, Fellow, Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex

Dr Sarah Cook, Head of School of Economics and Professor in Economics, School of Economics, University of Nottingham Ningbo China

Professor Diane Elson, Emeritus Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Essex

Dr Sara Farris, Senior Lecturer, Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London

Haris Gazdar, Director and Senior Researcher, Collective for Social Science Research

Professor Jayati Ghosh, Professor, Department of Economics, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Professor Jasmine Gideon, Professor of Global Health and Development, School of Social Sciences, Birkbeck, University of London

Professor James Heintz, Andrew Glyn Professor of Economics and Director, Economics and Human Rights Programme, Political Economy Research Institute, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Rachel Noble, Senior Policy Advisor on Women's Economic Justice, Oxfam

Dr Luiza Nassif Pires, Assistant Professor, Institute of Economics, University of Campinas and Director, Research Centre on Macroeconomics of Inequalities, University of Sao Paolo

Professor Gita Sen, Professor Emeritus, Indian Institute of Management Bangalore

Dr Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona, Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and Senior Research Associate, United Nations Research in Social Development

Professor Munshi Sulaiman, Director of Research, Professor of the Master of Development Studies Program, BRAC Institute of Governance and Development

Professor Dzodzi Tsikata, Distinguished Research Professor of Development Studies, SOAS, University of London

Professor Imraan Valodia, Professor of Economics, Pro Vice-Chancellor: Climate, Sustainability and Inequality and Director of the Southern Centre for Inequality Studies, University of the Witwatersrand

OPPORTUNITY, MOBILITY AND THE INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF INEQUALITY

Led by Professor Francisco H G Ferreira and Dr Paolo Brunori



Photo credit: Maxine LeBrun via Unsplash

Following the launch of the Global Estimates of Opportunity and Mobility (GEOM) database, the Opportunity, Mobility and Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality (OM) research programme has focused on disseminating the contents of the database, updating and refining its data, and beginning work on a second version.

This next release, expected at the end of 2025, will include estimates of intergenerational mobility, complementing the existing information on inequality of opportunity. The GEOM database is a unique resource for both researchers and the general public interested in the extent to which current inequality can be predicted based on ascriptive characteristics such as sex, place of birth, or socioeconomic background. It covers more than 70 countries and draws on over 200 surveys. You can read more about GEOM on our blog post.

The dissemination of the GEOM database has facilitated the development of an international research network involving several institutions, including the Asian Development Bank, Centro de Estudios Distributivos, Laborales y Sociales (Argentina), Centro de Estudios Espinosa Yglesias (Mexico), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development,

Monash University (Australia), the University of Bari Aldo Moro (Italy), and VelezReyes+ (Brazil). Furthermore, the methodologies developed by the OM research team at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) have attracted the interest of several organisations, which have invited the team to present its methods in internal training sessions. These include the Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos (Ecuador), the Asian Development Bank, the Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (Brazil), and the OECD Centre on Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity.

The OM research programme has also supported academic mobility by awarding a grant for visiting PhD and postdoctoral students. Under this initiative, we were pleased to host Dr Francesca Subioli and Tatiana Perez Martinez who contributed to projects on inequality of opportunity and intergenerational mobility. Dr Annaelena Valentini and

Dr Giorgia Zotti also spent one term as visiting postdoctoral fellows collaborating with the OM programme.

In addition to research and training, the OM programme organised several events. The SMOOTHIE seminar series (Statistical Methods to Understand Inherited Inequalities) hosted presentations by several researchers. Chris Minns presented work on the geography of economic mobility in nineteenth-century Canada; Tatiana Perez discussed estimates of intergenerational mobility in Uruguay using administrative data; Francesca Subioli introduced a novel approach to inequality of opportunity through network analysis; and Matias Ciaschi examined the relationship between social mobility, the misallocation of ability, and economic performance from a lifetime perspective. Sander de Vries presented findings on measuring family (dis)advantage using detailed parental information, while Alejandro Puertas focused on locally robust estimation of the intergenerational elasticity.

The OM research programme also co-organised three major external events. The first was the workshop on, "Wealth inequality, intergenerational mobility, and equality of opportunity", held on 21



OM team after SMOOTHIE seminar

to 22 November 2024, in collaboration with the Vienna Research Institute Economics of Inequality and ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic

Research in Mannheim. The second was the Eighteenth Winter School on Inequality and Collective Welfare Theory (IT18), which took place in the Italian Alps from 6 to 11

January 2025, co-organised with the University of Verona and a network of institutions engaged in inequality research. The third was the Conference and Winter School on Socioeconomic Inequality and Mobility, co-organised by the OM research programme in collaboration with the Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada and the Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality at the University of Chicago.

The OM research programme is also involved in the SPES – Sustainability Performances, Evidence and Scenarios project, a three-year European initiative involving 11 institutions. Amaia Palencia Esteban and Paolo Brunori have contributed to the project by publishing reports assessing the socioeconomic risks of climate change and the green transition.

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The GEOM database is a unique resource for both researchers and the general public interested in the extent to which current inequality can be predicted based on ascriptive characteristics such as sex, place of birth, or socioeconomic background”

HIGHLIGHTS

Winter Schools on Inequality and Mobility

As in previous years, the III – with the OM programme in the lead – co-sponsored the Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory¹³ in Alba di Canazei, Italy. The School, which held its 18th edition this past January, has become established as one of Europe's premier events for PhD students and junior faculty working on inequality-related topics to get to know each other's work and to interact with more senior scholars. The III contributed one of the largest contingents of senior speakers, including Professors Frank Cowell, Francisco Ferreira, Stephen Jenkins, Lucinda Platt and Dr Paolo Brunori.

In June 2025, it was winter in the Southern Hemisphere, and OM researchers partnered with the Stone Center on Wealth Inequality at the University of Chicago and the Instituto de Pesquisa Economica Aplicada (IPEA) to host a first Winter School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality¹⁴ in Brasilia. The School and associated conference, which attracted graduate students from Africa and Asia as well as South and North America, featured keynotes by Professors Steven Durlauf and Francisco Ferreira. Other III lecturers included Professor Facundo Alvaredo and Dr Paolo Brunori.

In the European summer, Professor Francisco Ferreira was one of two external invited speakers at the 6th Aix-Marseille School of Economics Summer School¹⁵, which focused on Social Mobility and Inequalities. He lectured on "Inherited inequality around the world" to an engaged group of faculty and graduate students from around the world.



Photo credit: Sean Eastman Photography via Shutterstock

Global Estimates of Opportunity and Mobility

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: PARTLY FUNDED BY GEOM: THE OPPORTUNITY AND MOBILITY LAB – A GRANT FROM VELEZREYEZ+ FOUNDATION.



The Global Estimates of Opportunity and Mobility (GEOM) is a newly launched public data repository and website aimed at providing comparable measures of inequality of opportunity across the world. The core principle behind it is that inequality of opportunity is higher in countries where outcomes like income are more strongly determined by circumstances beyond an individual's control. While the database does not yet include every country, this initial release offers estimates for 72 countries, covering approximately 67 per cent of the global population. Due to the limited availability of high-quality administrative data on family background, especially outside a few countries, the first phase relies primarily on household surveys. In total, 196 surveys have been analysed, allowing for time-series comparisons in some countries.

13 Winter School 2025, 'Inequality and Big Challenges'. Published on LINUX2.DSE.UNIVR.IT

14 Winter School 2025, 'Escola de Inverno sobre Desigualdades ocorre na próxima semana e terá transmissões ao vivo'. Published on IPEA.GOV.BR

15 6th Aix-Marseille School of Economics, '6th AMSE Summer School Social Mobility and Inequalities'. Published on SUMMERAMSE25.SCIENCECONF.ORG

MEMBERS

INTERNAL TEAM

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Dr Paolo Brunori, Associate Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III and Associate Professor of Public Economics, University of Florence

Dr H Xavier Jara, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Professor Stephen Jenkins, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Economic and Social Policy, Department of Social Policy

Dr Amaia Palencia-Esteban, Research Officer, LSE III

Professor Stephen Machin, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Director, Centre for Economic Performance (CEP)

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Dr Giorgia Zotti, Visiting Fellow, LSE III and Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Economics and Finance, University of Bari Aldo Moro

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Victoria Hünewaldt, PhD Candidate, Department of Economics, University of Siena

Dr Daniel Mahler, Senior Economist, Development Data Group, The World Bank

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Dr Guido Neidhöfer, Senior Researcher, ZEW Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research and DAAD-Professor of Economics, Turkish-German University in Istanbul

Dr Flaviana Palmisano, Associate Professor of Public Economics, Sapienza University of Rome

Professor Vito Peragine, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics and Finance, University of Bari Aldo Moro

Professor Patrizio Piraino, Associate Professor of Education, Labor, and Development and Director of the Ford Program in Human Development Studies and Solidarity, Keough School of Global Affairs, University of Notre Dame

Fabian Reutzel, PhD Candidate, Paris School of Economics

Dr Giovanna Scarchilli, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economics, Management and Quantitative Methods, University of Milan

Dr Roy van der Weide, Senior Economist, Poverty and Inequality Research Team, The World Bank

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PERCEPTIONS OF INEQUALITY

Led by Professor Frank Cowell and Professor Joan Costa-Font



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PROGRAMME INTRODUCTION

The Perceptions of Inequality research programme, under the leadership of Professors Frank Cowell and Joan Costa-Font with Principal Researcher Jakob Dirksen, has continued to advance our understanding of how individuals perceive and respond to various forms of inequality across multiple domains. Over the 2024/25 academic year, we expanded our research activities, strengthened international collaborations, and disseminated our findings to both academics and the public.

The year marked an important moment for our programme with the organisation of the international research workshop on, “Perceptions of inequality”, which brought together leading scholars from across Europe and beyond to present and discuss the latest research on fairness beliefs, misperceptions, and the role of information in shaping attitudes toward inequality.

We are also pleased to announce two forthcoming special issues on perceptions of inequality and related topics, in the *Journal of Economic Inequality* and the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* (JEBO), respectively.

Another major new initiative this year has been the launch of our PhD and Early Career Researcher (ECR) Visiting Programme, designed to

support the next generation of inequality researchers. We will be welcoming our first cohort of research visitor(s) to contribute fresh perspectives to our ongoing projects and benefit from mentorship by our senior faculty members in the academic year 2025/26.

A good example of our engagement with the broader public is our participation in the LSE Festival 2025: Visions for the Future,¹⁶ where we contributed to the festival’s exploration of future challenges through an exhibition component focusing on how perceptions of inequality shape societal responses to economic disparities. This public-facing initiative enables us to translate complex research findings into accessible formats, fostering informed public dialogue about inequality and its consequences.

We also published our first *LSE Inequalities* blog post, “Did inequality shape the Brexit vote?” which examined the relationship between economic disparities and political outcomes. In addition, our co-directors published a new paper in the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) Working Paper Series (number 142) on, “Specific egalitarianism? Inequality aversion across domains”, which is forthcoming in the *Journal of Economic Inequality*.

We also contributed to the III Seminar Series and hosted additional events, maintaining a focus on bringing together interdisciplinary perspectives on inequality perceptions. In October 2024, programme member Professor Erik Schokkaert from KU Leuven presented, “Freedom counts: cross-country empirical evidence”. In March 2025, programme member Dr Melissa Sands presented, “The political consequences of exposure to inequality on social media: a randomised field experiment”. In April 2025, Michele Bernasconi presented, “Equality of opportunity with quadratic social welfare functions”. And in May 2025, we presented our research project on, “Narratives of inequality” in the III Seminar Series.

16 LSE ‘Visions for the future | LSE Festival exhibition’. Published on LSE.AC.UK

We were also pleased to participate in the 2nd Welfare & Policy Conference organised by the Society for Research on Welfare and Policy in May 2025, where our Principal Researcher Jakob Dirksen organised and chaired a thematic session on, “Perceptions of inequality”, further strengthening our connections with the broader welfare economics community. In addition, we have presented our research at the annual meeting of Oxfam Spain in Madrid in March 2025, and are now exploring additional collaborations with Oxfam in Spain and beyond.

Throughout the year, we have maintained strong collaborative relationships with our international partners. These collaborations have enriched our research agenda and facilitated comparative studies that illuminate how cultural and institutional contexts shape perceptions of inequality.

In addition, we were pleased to welcome our fantastic research assistants Queena Chong, Hannah Hepner, Cecilia Saavedra, Aaron Bermejo-Quintero, Sara Alassaf, and Shaurya Bansal to the team.

Looking ahead, we are excited about several new initiatives, including expanded research on the role of narratives in shaping inequality perceptions and the development of new experimental methodologies to study how group deliberation affects inequality discourse. Our commitment to bridging academic research and policy practice remains central to our mission, as we continue to generate insights that can inform more effective and equitable policy interventions.

CORE RESEARCH PROJECTS PROGRESS

Our research programme has advanced several projects examining different dimensions of how inequality is perceived and discussed globally.

The “Narratives of inequality” project examines global and country-specific narratives of inequality, focusing on three key dimensions: income, wealth, and health, with particular attention to gender inequalities. By tracking online search interest in terms related to inequality across different countries and scraping data from news articles, social media, and forums, we seek to better understand how inequality is perceived, discussed, and framed worldwide. Utilising natural language processing (NLP), we identify dominant themes, assess sentiment variations, and compare regional differences in public discourse. We also examine patterns in global inequality discussions, such as those linked to macroeconomic performance and demographic composition, providing a data-driven perspective on evolving inequality narratives worldwide.

Our “Exposure, information, and circumstances” project uses survey experimental evidence to understand perceptions of inequality. This innovative research employs experimental methodologies to examine how exposure to different types of information and circumstances shapes people’s understanding of economic disparities. Through carefully designed survey experiments, we explore how individuals update their beliefs about inequality when presented with factual information, how personal experiences influence perceptions, and how these perceptions translate into policy preferences. This work provides crucial insights for designing effective communication strategies about inequality and understanding the barriers to accurate perception formation.



The Perceptions of Inequality research programme has continued to advance our understanding of how individuals perceive and respond to various forms of inequality across multiple domains”



HIGHLIGHTS

International research workshop on perceptions of inequality



The international research workshop on, “Perceptions of inequality”, held on 20 May 2025, represented an important event for our research programme. This full-day workshop brought together an exceptional group of international scholars to present and discuss cutting-edge research on how individuals perceive, understand, and respond to various forms of inequality.

The workshop attracted approximately 50 participants from universities across Europe and beyond, fostering vibrant discussions that continued well into the evening workshop dinner. The event has already generated several collaborative research proposals and laid the groundwork for future comparative studies.

PhD and ECR Visiting Programme launch



We have launched our visiting programme inviting research students and early career researchers from other universities to spend up to one academic term at LSE. This initiative aims to assist doctoral and postdoctoral researchers in their own research, granting them temporary access to the facilities and supervision offered by our team at the III while establishing a network of academic contacts within the field of inequality studies.

Visitors benefit from participation in our seminar series, workshops, and collaborative research projects, while contributing their own perspectives to our intellectual community.

The programme has already attracted much interest from the international research community. We are pleased to announce that Victoria Hünnewaldt from Università degli Studi di Siena will be joining us in early 2026, co-hosted with the III research programme on Opportunity, Mobility and the Intergenerational Transmission of Inequality. Her visit exemplifies the cross-programme collaboration that enriches our research environment and fosters interdisciplinary approaches to understanding inequality.

Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization Special Issue



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We are pleased to announce the forthcoming special issue in the *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, focusing on, “Perceptions of inequality and distributions”. Guest edited by Professor Joan Costa-Font, Professor Frank Cowell, and Jakob Dirksen, this special issue will feature world-class empirical and methodological research examining behavioural explanations of inequality perceptions across income, health, and education domains.

The special issue will include selected papers from our May 2025 workshop alongside potential additional contributions from the Ill’s 10th anniversary conference in September 2025. We anticipate this collection will establish new benchmarks in the field and consolidate the rapidly growing literature on inequality perceptions.

LSE Festival Exhibition: Visions for the Future



LSE Festival exhibition launch, 16 June 2025

Our participation in the LSE Festival 2025 is an important opportunity for us to engage with the broader public about the importance of understanding inequality perceptions. As part of the festival’s exploration of Visions for the Future, we developed an interactive exhibition component that translated our research findings into accessible, visually engaging formats.

The exhibition featured data visualisations showing how people across different countries and social groups misperceive inequality, interactive demonstrations allowing visitors to test their own perceptions against reality, and narrative presentations exploring how stories and personal experiences shape our understanding of economic disparities.

One particularly noteworthy element was an interactive quiz where visitors could estimate income and wealth distributions in the UK and compare their estimates with actual data.

MEMBERS

INTERNAL TEAM

Professor Frank Cowell, Professor of Economics and MSc Economics (two year) Programme Director, Department of Economics

Professor Joan Costa-Font, Professor of Health Economics, Department of Health Policy

Jakob Dirksen, Analysing and Challenging Inequalities Scholar, LSE III, Department of Social Policy, and CASE/STICERD and Research and Policy Officer, Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, Department of International Development, University of Oxford

Sara Alassaf, Research Assistant

Dr Miqdad Asaria, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy

Dr Tania Burchardt, Associate Professor, Department of Social Policy, Associate Director, Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion and Deputy Director of STICERD

Queena Chong, Research Assistant

Dr Matteo Galizzi, Associate Professor of Behavioural Science, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science

Hannah Heppner, Research Assistant

Dr H Xavier Jara, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Chloé de Meulenaer, PhD Candidate, Department of Economics

Aaron Bermejo Quintero, Research Assistant

Cecilia Saavedra, Research Assistant

Dr Melissa Sands, Assistant Professor of Politics and Data Science, Department of Government

Dr Jennifer Sheehy-Skeffington, Associate Professor of Social Psychology, Department of Psychological and Behavioural Science

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Dr Liema Davidovitz, Senior Lecturer, Ruppin Institute

Professor Koen Decancq, Research Fellow, CPNSS and Professor, University of Antwerp

Professor Philippe Van Kerm, Professor of Social Inequality and Social Policy, Department of Social Sciences, University of Luxembourg

Professor Nora Lustig, Samuel Z Stone Professor of Latin American Economics and Director of the Commitment to Equity Institute, Tulane University

Professor François Maniquet, Professor of Economics, UC Louvain and Senior Research Scientist, Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research

Professor Javier Olivera, Professor of Economics, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Peru, National Bank of Belgium and Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research

Professor Erik Schokkaert, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Economics and Business, KU Leuven

Dr Denisa Sologon, Senior Research Scientist, Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research

Dr Alain Trannoy, Research Director, EHESS, Aix-Marseille Université

James Zuo, PhD Candidate, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

PUBLIC ECONOMICS OF INEQUALITY

Led by Professor Johannes Spinnewijn



Photo credit: Adobe Stock

The 2024/25 academic year marked a strong and fruitful conclusion to the Public Economics of Inequality research programme at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III). As our final year comes to a close, we reflect on a programme that has consistently advanced the frontier of empirical public economics, with a strong policy orientation and a deep commitment to understanding and addressing inequality.

Members made significant progress on projects tackling a broad set of inequality-related questions, including the impact of inflation across the income distribution, the effects of AI adoption on labour markets, the efficiency and equity of tax design, the distributional consequences of energy crises, and health inequalities over the life course and the role of supplemental health insurance.

The core team remained composed of Professor Xavier Jaravel, Professor Camille Landais, Dr Kate Smith, and Professor Johannes Spinnewijn. Our efforts have combined methodological rigor with practical relevance. Research by team members was disseminated widely through high-profile presentations and prestigious journals, and policy engagement continued at the highest levels. As in previous years, we were pleased to host a number of visiting researchers and pre-doctoral fellows. The theme also benefitted from the continued

engagement of researchers affiliated with other departments and institutions. Beyond individual research accomplishments, the theme remained a vibrant hub for intellectual exchange, hosting regular seminars and contributing to joint events with the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), University College London (UCL), and the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR).

We are particularly pleased to highlight a number of new achievements this year: Professor Johannes Spinnewijn was awarded a European Research Council (ERC) Advanced Grant for his research on health inequality. Professor Camille Landais continued his service as Director of the Conseil d'Analyse Économique (CAE), advising the French government on key economic policy issues, and this year was succeeded in that role by Professor Xavier Jaravel, marking a continued contribution of the team to high-level economic policymaking in France.

Below we selected some of the further highlights from this final year that showcase the theme's mission and achievements.

This year marks the final year for the Public Economics of Inequality programme at the III. Since its inception, the theme has built an exceptional platform for research collaboration, data-driven policy insight, and the mentoring of young scholars. We are proud of what has been accomplished and look forward to continuing this work through other channels. The community and agenda that the theme has fostered will undoubtedly persist and evolve beyond this formal close.

HIGHLIGHTS

Research paper: Real-time inflation inequality

Professor Xavier Jaravel presented his new research paper, “Distributional consumer price indices”, at our III seminar in October. The paper constructs a new database tracking inflation by demographic group from 2002 onward in the United States, highlighting that traditional Consumer Price Index (CPI) measures mask substantial heterogeneity. The findings reveal that real inequality has grown 45 per cent faster than previously measured, with millions more individuals falling below the poverty line when inflation differentials are accounted for. The work underscores how aggregate statistics can fail to capture true economic hardship



Photo credit: michelle henderson via Unsplash

and has major implications for poverty measurement and social policy.

Seminar highlight: Vahe Nafilyan on health and labour market outcomes



Photo credit: Luke Chesser via Unsplash

As part of our Tuesday Seminar Series, we were delighted to host Vahe Nafilyan from the Office for National Statistics. In a highly engaging session, he presented frontier work using newly linked administrative datasets combining UK health, tax, and benefits records. His presentation offered rare insight into how state-of-the-art data infrastructure can enable causal evaluation of major health interventions. This seminar exemplified our commitment to policy-relevant research and building bridges between academic and statistical communities.

Policy impact: Pension reform panel at CEPR Winter Week



Photo credit: Emil Kalibradov via Unsplash

Our research programme has consistently strived to translate academic insights into actionable policy. A key highlight this year was the policy panel on pension reform organised as part of the CEPR Winter Week in Paris. The panel was anchored around the CEPR Policy Insight book *Rethinking Pension Reform*, with contributions from both Professor Camille Landais and Professor Johannes Spinnewijn. Drawing on our research, the panel explored how recent research findings can be used to inform the design of pension benefit schedules and the choice of retirement ages. The initiative brought together policymakers and researchers to address the growing tension between sustainability and equity in pension systems.

MEMBERS

INTERNAL TEAM

Professor Johannes Spinnewijn, Public Economics of Inequality Research Programme Leader, LSE III and Professor, Department of Economics

Professor Oriana Bandiera, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Economics and Sir Anthony Atkinson Chair in Economics, Department of Economics

Professor Tim Besley, Faculty Associate, LSE III and School Professor of Economics and Political Science, Department of Economics

Professor Frank Cowell, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Economics and MSc Economics (two years) Programme Director, Department of Economics

Professor Francisco H G Ferreira, Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies and Director, LSE III

Professor Daniel Gottlieb, Professor of Managerial Economics and Strategy, Department of Management

Professor Xavier Jaravel, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Professor Stephen Jenkins, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Economic and Social Policy, Department of Social Policy

Professor Camille Landais, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Dr Kristóf Madarász, Associate Professor in Managerial Economics and Strategy, Department of Management

Professor Ben Moll, Professor of Economics, Sir John Hicks Chair in Economics, Department of Economics

Dr Joana Naritomi, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Assistant Professor, Department of International Development

Dr Daniel Reck, Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Dr Sandra Sequeira, Associate Professor in Development Economics, Department of International Development

Dr Kate Smith, Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Economics

Dr Andy Summers, Faculty Associate, LSE III and Associate Professor, LSE Law School

EXTERNAL TEAM

Dr François Gerard, Assistant Professor, Queen Mary University of London

WEALTH, ELITES AND TAX JUSTICE

Led by Professor Mike Savage



Photo credit: simon morley via Alamy

This academic year has been a period of intense activity and significant achievement for the Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice team at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III). Under the leadership of Professor Mike Savage, the programme continues its foundational work in exploring how wealth inequality, distinct from income, is driving forward key social divides in power and society today. This year we have been foregrounding intersections with class, ensuring our communications to the public, and collaborating within and outside of LSE, making a social effort to reach key campaigners. Our interdisciplinary research, impactful publications, and dynamic public engagement have solidified our position at the forefront of understanding the consequences of extreme wealth inequality, how it challenges meritocratic ideals, and how we might reduce wealth inequalities.

As well as the substantive projects reported below, we are also involved in methodological innovations. A key focus here is the UK Voices project. This is seeking to boost the UK data infrastructure by enhancing qualitative research – so allowing the voices of those who are on the “sharp end” of inequality to get increasing visibility and recognition. While the UK has a strong portfolio of detailed quantitative datasets, survey instruments often lack the nuance to capture emerging issues as individuals experience and express them. Qualitative research, however, is attuned to people’s perceptions “on the ground”, and it is vital to harness these insights to address the scale

and scope of contemporary challenges. We have conducted pilot qualitative interviews to trial a topic guide able to capture a range of lay narratives and we have also developed AI and digital methods to analyse large amounts of qualitative data at scale. A workshop was held in June 2025 in collaboration with the University of Bristol’s Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Centre for Sociodigital Futures to draw together key stakeholders to promote the importance of this initiative.

In addition, the Centre for the Analysis of Taxation (CenTax) team continue their work in examining the UK tax system. The International Inequalities

Institute research associates Dr Andy Summers, Associate Professor of Law, LSE; Professor Arun Advani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Warwick; and Andrew Lonsdale, Research Economist at CenTax, developed proposals for reforming Capital Gains Tax (CGT) that could raise £14 billion for the exchequer while simultaneously taking around 100,000 people out of CGT altogether. The authors propose a package of five reforms to boost CGT revenue and remove opportunities for avoidance including equalising the rate of CGT with income tax and introducing an investment allowance. Sixty-eight per cent of the additional revenue from the proposed reforms comes from the top 0.1 per cent richest taxpayers (based on their total income and gains over five years).

LOOKING FORWARD

The Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice team has demonstrated an exceptional year of productivity and impact. With ongoing groundbreaking research, forthcoming publications, and a continued commitment to robust public engagement, the team remains poised to further deepen our understanding of wealth inequality and contribute significantly to the pursuit of a more equitable world.

HIGHLIGHTS

Highlighting social class: does class still matter? Event with Zarah Sultana MP: fostering public dialogue

A significant highlight in the programme's public engagement efforts was the highly successful public event on, "Class in Britain 2025" featuring Zarah Sultana, MP, alongside LSE academics and relevant activists. This event provided a crucial and timely forum for discussing contemporary class dynamics in Britain. By bringing together a prominent political voice with cutting-edge academic analysis, the discussion explored the multifaceted nature of class today, its enduring impact on society, and the potential pathways for addressing class-based inequalities. The event drew a substantial and new audience, stimulating robust debate and underscoring the ILL's commitment to translating complex research into accessible insights that inform public and policy discourse. Such events are vital for bridging the gap between academic research and the lived realities of social stratification, allowing the team to contribute directly to shaping public understanding and policy agendas.

Whether through Professors Friedman and Reeves' book, *Born to Rule*, or via coverage of our event on class by BBC



Zarah Sultana speaking at LSE, 4 February 2025

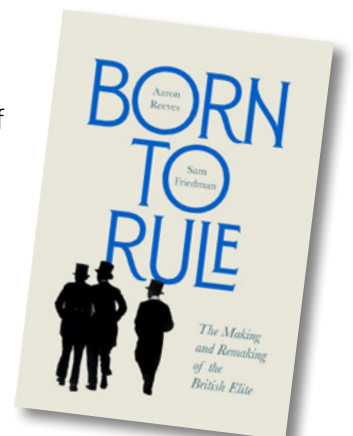
Photo credit: Maria Moore Photography

Radio News, the team has had significant news coverage. Dr Kristin Surak's acclaimed book, *The Golden Passport: global mobility for millionaires*, which dissects the rapidly expanding and often opaque market for citizenship and residence by investment programmes, has also continued to gain traction in the public sphere. Dr Surak's insights have been sought by and featured in *National Public Radio (NPR)*, *BBC Radio 4*, *The Economist*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *El Confidential (Spain)*, and *CNN*, among many others. This widespread media engagement underscores the team's policy relevance and the pressing public interest in our findings.

Born to rule: reshaping the understanding of British elites

A monumental contribution this year has been the publication of *Born to Rule: the making and remaking of the British elite*, co-authored by Professor Sam Friedman and Professor Aaron Reeves. This seminal work provides an unparalleled, data-rich analysis of the British elite, tracing their pathways, characteristics, educational backgrounds, and political inclinations from the late 1890s to today. By examining the profiles, interests, and careers of over 125,000 members of the British elite from various historical databases and through over 200 in-depth interviews, the book uncovers a persistent lack of fundamental movement at the top of British society. Despite some visible progress in the inclusion of women and Black and Asian Britons, the research strikingly reveals that individuals born into the top one per cent are almost as likely to reach elite positions today as they were 125 years ago.

The book's launch was a major event, attracting a large and engaged audience, and fostering robust discussion on how we might change the policy fixation on social mobility to addressing overall wealth inequality. *Born to Rule* has garnered widespread critical acclaim, earning a coveted spot on "Best Books of 2024" lists by *The Economist* and *The Times*, and winning the prestigious 2024 Mary Douglas Book Prize from the American Sociological Association, underscoring its significant academic and public resonance.



Changing the narrative: communicating wealth inequality

The team's diverse portfolio also includes critical work on the communication of wealth inequality, demonstrating how public perceptions and attitudes towards wealth and the wealthy can be shifted through different communication strategies. The project co-led by Dr Sarah Kerr and Dr Michael Vaughan, with contributions from Annalena Oppel and Professor Mike Savage, explores this vital area. This multi-stage project, supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), has produced important outputs which argue that social policy concerns traditionally focused on poverty need to be re-directed towards the analysis of "wealtherty" (Kerr, 2024). This had fed into broader concerns with how wealth may be "framed" as an object of concern, drawing on collaborations with social change sector experts (Kerr and Vaughan, 2024). The project continued with focus groups in autumn 2024, designed to understand public opinions on wealth and wealth inequality in the UK, supported by partners like the New Economy Organisers Network (NEON), Future Narratives Lab, and Fairness Foundation. The findings from these focus groups and a subsequent survey experiment, which tested the effects of different communication frames on public opinion, are synthesised in a forthcoming JRF report, "Talking about wealth inequality: how to increase critical orientations and support for redistribution" (Kerr, Vaughan and Oppel, 2025). This report is specifically designed to provide actionable insights for social change actors. Dr Michael Vaughan's Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship project, "Anti-elitism toward wealth elites in communication", further enriches this area, using computational methods to analyse how wealth elites are discussed across news and social media, producing impactful papers like, "Seeing a new type of economic inequality discourse: inequality as spectacle in the 'Billionaire Space Race'" (Vaughan and Schieferdecker, 2025).



Photo credit: I Wei Huang via Shutterstock

Following on from this work, Dr Sarah Kerr produced a six-part podcast series funded by the JRF's Storyteller's Fund¹⁷ using ideas from her book *Wealth, Poverty and Enduring Inequality: let's talk wealtherty*¹⁸ to explore some of the trends and issues in wealth inequality in the UK today. The aim of the podcast is to make a more accessible space for thinking and talking about wealth as a social problem, and specifically, for thinking about the effects of extreme private wealth ownership on social and environmental sustainability. The podcast series was released in summer 2025.

¹⁷ JRF, 'Storytellers'. Published on JRF.ORG

¹⁸ Sarah Kerr, *Wealth, Poverty and Enduring Inequality: Let's Talk Wealtherty*. Published on POLICY.BRISTOLUNIVERSITYPRESS.CO.UK

Exposing the racial wealth divide

Numerous theme members have been working on a book project *Colonial Pasts and Inequality Today: the racial wealth divide in Britain and South Africa* to be published by LSE Press in 2026. This book takes up the recognition that the intensification of private wealth in the past 50 years has generated dramatic socio-economic change around the globe. We build on an emerging current of research which emphasises the systemic and far-reaching significance of the contemporary racial wealth divide. We will present new empirical research on the extent, trajectories, and experience of the racial wealth divide in the UK and South Africa. Our British-focused work led to a report for the Runnymede Trust¹⁹ which has contributed to the heightening of awareness regarding racial wealth inequality. Our South African-focused work builds upon ongoing collaboration with researchers at the University

of Cape Town and has led to the first elaborated sociological analysis of race and socio-economic divisions in South Africa using geometric data analysis (Branson et al, 2024). Building on this partnership, team members Dr Oppel and Professor Savage contributed to the first comprehensive book analysing inequality across sub-Saharan Africa as a whole (David et al, 2025). Team members helped to lead workshops in Cape Town, South Africa, in July 2024, and in Accra, Ghana, in March 2025.

19 Runnymede Trust, 'Why the UK racial wealth divide matters: a call for action'. Published on [RUNNYMEDETRUST.ORG](https://runnymedetrust.org)



Photo credit: Sunshine Seeds via Unsplash

MEMBERS

INTERNAL TEAM

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Professor Sam Friedman, Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr Sarah Kerr, Research Fellow, LSE III

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Mina Mahmoudzadeh, Research Assistant, LSE III

Babette May, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology

Dr Annalena Oppel, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, LSE III

Professor Aaron Reeves, Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr Elisabeth Schimpfössl, Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III

Dr Faiza Shaheen, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III

Dr Andy Summers, Associate Professor of Law, LSE Law School

Dr Kristin Surak, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology

Dr Michael Vaughan, Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, LSE III

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Dr Katharina Hecht, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Konstanz

Dr María-Luisa Mendez Layera, Director of the Center for Social Conflict and Cohesion Studies

Adele Oliver, PhD Candidate, University of Glasgow

Dr Emma Taylor, Lecturer in Education, King's College London

GLOBAL INEQUALITIES OBSERVATORY



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The Global Inequalities Observatory (GIO) at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) brings together research that generates new data, methodologies and tools for improving the measurement of international inequalities across a range of different topics, such as social mobility, employment, sustainability, and tax and social policy.

It also hosts the UK's Satellite Office of the Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) and promotes understanding of inequalities from a multidisciplinary perspective in particular regions. For example, the Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review (LACIR) and the India Observatory undertake high-level research into the causes and consequences of inequalities in these regions and provide a basis for policy impact.

The Observatory's core values for empirical research are: 1) rigour; 2) transparency for reproducibility; and 3) interdisciplinarity. It aims for broad – but not exhaustive – geographical coverage, including the Global South as well as advanced industrial countries. By working across a range of themes related to economic inequality, the GIO complements – and collaborates with – the research programmes currently in operation at the III.

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The Observatory's core values for empirical research are: 1) rigour; 2) transparency for reproducibility; and 3) interdisciplinarity”

India Observatory

The India Observatory at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) carries out research to inform policy on opportunities and challenges to the economic and social development of India, South Asia, and the wider Global South community. As the world navigates rapid and disruptive changes to the global economy and politics, there is a need for our analysis to maintain a focus on creating a better life for those who are still facing challenges. The India Observatory/ South Asia Growth and Development Programme reflects on the opportunities and challenges pertaining to these changes toward enabling the achievement of the global UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The research programme develops thought and analysis through the themes of sustainability, technological innovation and disruption, fiscal policy, human capital and skills, and urbanisation, with an overarching view of the global and local inequalities that define our modern world.

The India Observatory research project, “Digital ecosystems for futuristic entrepreneurship” is supported by UK – India collaboration funding through the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) –

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) project. This project focuses on studying opportunities and challenges for furthering knowledge economies in India and the UK through ecosystems for entrepreneurship to enhance mutual economic prosperity, human capital development and welfare. Using a multidisciplinary approach, the study focused particularly on ecosystems for technology-based entrepreneurship including in financial services and FinTech. This past year, the project team has worked to disseminate the findings in events in India and the UK and is finalising the research outputs.

Furthering academic exchange and LSE’s links into India, this year we continued our partnership with the Indian University of Mumbai, and Babasaheb Ambedkar Research and Training Institute (BARTI) in Pune, facilitating a visit by their delegation to LSE. We also engaged with other activities related to Ambedkar’s legacy, such as supporting the screening of a film at LSE. Dr Ruth Kattumuri participated in the opening session of the conference hosted at Gray’s Inn, London.

We collaborated with the High Commission of India to organise a lecture by the Finance Minister, Ms Nirmala



Photo credit: Alisa via Adobe Stock



As the world navigates rapid and disruptive changes to the global economy and politics, there is a need for our analysis to maintain a focus on creating a better life for those who are still facing challenges.”

Sitharaman, at India House. Professor Nicholas Stern participated in this moderated panel discussion. LSE Vice Chancellor Professor Larry Kramer gave introductory remarks. Dr Kattumuri participated in the roundtable discussion with the Finance Minister before the event. The India Observatory regularly collaborates with the High Commission of India on various activities including the visit by Ministers, particularly with an interest in Ambedkar’s legacy of his having chaired India’s constitution. Ambedkar is an alumni having done his PhD at LSE.

We also supported ongoing work for the development of LSE – India programmes. Dr Kattumuri accompanied LSE Vice Chancellor Larry Kramer and Nick Stern to India. We were involved in a number of meetings in India in March. Some of these meetings involved programmes that had been initiated about 20 years ago and currently provide an opportunity for expansion. Larry Kramer is committed to expanding the partnership with India. These include meetings with academics and policymakers from the Ambedkar International Center; Jawaharlal Nehru University; Reserve Bank of India; the Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and LSE alumni through the British High Commission in India. We also engaged with organisations such as Reliance Industries; Tata Sons; the Confederation of Indian Industry; and the International Solar Alliance.

Dr Kattumuri also delivered the distinguished C N Vakil Memorial Lecture at the Department of Economics, University of Mumbai in March 2025.

The India Observatory continues to support capacity-building programmes through its fellowship schemes. Through the prestigious Sir Ratan Tata Post-Doctoral Fellowship and the Subir Chowdhury Post-Doctoral Fellowship schemes, as well as other fellowship programmes, we support South Asian scholars working on issues relevant to the sub-continent. It supports their growth and development through active mentoring and exposure to the rich research environment at LSE. The alumni of the fellowships are well-placed within South Asian academia, and the Observatory supports this community of scholars through inter-cohort conferences and webinars to allow the creation of research networks. Our visiting scholars for 2024/25 have actively contributed to our research agenda of growth, development and inequality. This includes projects on Dalit geographies, examining the links between caste, politics and the peri-urban expansion of Delhi and an impact assessment of climate risks on Indian banks.

RESEARCH TEAM

Dr Ruth Kattumuri, Co-Chair, India Observatory

Professor Lord Nicholas Stern, I G Patel Professor of Economics and Government, Department of Economics and Co-Chair, India Observatory

Dr Ajay Kumar Gautam, Sir Ratan Tata Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, LSE III

Dr Bibekananda Panda, Subir Chowdhury Visiting Fellow, LSE III

Dr Shantanu Singh, Research Assistant, LSE III



Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review (LACIR)

The Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review (LACIR) brings together renowned scholars to provide a coherent and comprehensive overview of the inequality problem in the region. Its secretariat is based at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III).

As LACIR's first major output, the *Oxford Open Economics* published the LACIR Supplement in March 2025, a thorough study of the region's persistently high inequality. For decades, Latin America has been one of the most unequal parts of the world, despite economic growth and social transformation. Therefore, the Supplement tackles deep questions about why inequality endures in the region and what forces sustain this high-inequality equilibrium.

The Supplement is the culmination of a multi-year collaboration involving 74 scholars from diverse fields, who contributed 27 peer-reviewed articles covering five core themes: 1) Levels and trends of inequality: establishing the facts; 2) inequality of opportunity: nature and determinants; 3) inequality and markets: the roles of labour, capital and goods markets; 4) taxation and redistribution: are governments levelling the playing field?; 5) inequality and political power: structures and struggles.

In a truly collective effort, in 2021, LACIR commissioned the 27 papers, five or six per theme, to a broad and interdisciplinary group of researchers specialised in the various dimensions of inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the first development stage of the Supplement, authors discussed their ideas and shared outlines through online workshops. Then, in 2022, drafts of the papers were presented at a conference hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. The following year, revised papers were evaluated in a second conference at the Universidad de Los Andes in Colombia.



Photo credit: Johnny Miller

Articles in the Supplement engage with a broad array of issues, from land inequality and wage dynamics to the design of old-age pensions and the functioning of political parties, all aimed at understanding the nature of socioeconomic disparities in Latin America and the Caribbean and why they have proven so persistent. Three key takeaways emerge from the Supplement. First, income inequality in Latin America, despite a decline in the 2000s, remains very high in a comparative perspective. Second, inequality in the region is multifaceted, with indicators such as wealth, land ownership, health, education, and opportunities also showing strikingly unequal distributions. Third, inequality is also interconnected, as countries in the region that show high wealth and income disparities exhibit significant discrepancies in early child development.

Furthermore, the Supplement reveals that pre-determined factors such as race, ethnicity, and gender, as well as the region, city, and neighbourhood people live in, may shape individuals' life chances. As an example, among people from similar socioeconomic backgrounds, those with darker skin are more likely to experience poorer educational outcomes, lower wages, and less stable working conditions. Likewise, while women now achieve similar or even higher levels of education compared to men, they are less likely to be in paid employment, and when they are, their earnings tend to be lower, especially after the birth of a child.

In addition, the work carried out by LACIR for the Supplement has generated several other valuable outputs. In particular, in October 2024, LACIR and the International Inequalities Institute organised a high-profile public event at LSE entitled, "The most unequal region in the world: combatting inequality in Latin America". The event was part of the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Festival of Social Science 2024. Moreover, LACIR and the Inter-American Development Bank launched, in 2024, a podcast series of 12 monthly episodes focused on how to build fairer and egalitarian societies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

LACIR's second and final major output, expected for 2026, is a non-technical volume synthesising the key findings in the Supplement and providing a narrative around the five core themes covered by the 27 papers. The first workshop dedicated to the new volume occurred in April 2025 at Yale University.

LACIR was funded primarily by a grant from the Inter-American Development Bank, as well as by funds from the LSE International Inequalities Institute and the Economic Growth Center at Yale University.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Internal members (guest editors of the Supplement)

Professor Facundo Alvaredo, Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III and Associate Professor, Paris School of Economics

Dr Valentina Contreras, Visiting Fellow, LSE III and Economist at OECD

Professor Francisco Ferreira, Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies, LSE III

Professor Andrés Velasco, Dean, School of Public Policy

External members (guest editors of the Supplement)

Professor Orazio Attanasio, Cowles Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Yale University

Professor Richard Blundell, David Ricardo Professor of Political Economy, Department of Economics, University College London

Professor François Bourguignon, Emeritus Professor, Paris School of Economics

Professor Ana De La O, Associate Professor of Political Science, Department of Political Science, Yale University

Professor Marcela Eslava, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, Universidad de Los Andes

Professor Raquel Fernández, Silver Professor, Department of Economics, New York University

Professor Ana María Ibañez, Vice President for Sectors and Knowledge, Inter-American Development Bank

Dr Santiago Levy, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution

Professor Nora Lustig, Samuel Z Stone Professor of Latin American Economics, Department of Economics, Tulane University

Professor Julián Messina, Beatriz Galindo Senior Distinguished Researcher, Fundamentos del Análisis Económico, Universidad de Alicante

Professor Florencia Torche, Edwards S Sanford Professor of Public and International Affairs and Sociology, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

The Quality of Employment (QoE) in Middle-Income Countries



This Global Professorship project, led by Professor Kirsten Sehnbruch, aimed to develop a new methodology for measuring poor quality of employment in middle-income countries. Drawing on the capability approach, the project moved beyond conventional employment metrics like unemployment rates and wages to consider broader dimensions such as job stability, autonomy, and contractual conditions as well as the intrinsic value of work. These indicators were shown to be essential for worker wellbeing, productivity, and social security system sustainability. Both from a theoretical and empirical perspective, the project has challenged the neoclassical assumptions that still underlie policy making in labour markets.

Over time, the project expanded both in scope and geographical reach. Initially focused on Latin America, the research gained international interest and was extended to the Middle East, Europe, and the UK. The core contribution was the development of a

multidimensional poor-quality employment measure that is applicable across both developing and advanced economies. It provides governments and international organisations with a tool to assess the prevalence and impact of poor-quality employment, as well as its ramifications in other policy areas such as productivity. Importantly, the research has demonstrated that poor-quality employment can have significant fiscal implications, as these jobs often fail to sustain workers and their dependents and therefore require additional support from benefit systems; pay lower taxes and contributions to social insurance systems; and are otherwise more costly, for example in terms of the poorer health associated with work. In the UK, for example, benefits such as Universal Credit used to be paid to families where adults were generally unable to work. Now, a high percentage of Universal Credit recipients do actually work, but cannot make ends meet without additional support.

In middle-income countries, such as in the Latin American region, workers in poor-quality employment are often working in informal jobs, which operate outside formal social security systems. However, it would be a mistake to assume that formal jobs are good jobs and informal jobs are bad ones. Many formal jobs have also become precarious in the sense that they are highly unstable, often do not pay into social security systems either and produce unpredictable earnings. To demonstrate this, this project has produced several papers using administrative data which show that social security systems cannot function and protect vulnerable workers in this context. Building social insurance on the foundations of a precarious labour market is like building a house on a sandy foundation. The same logic applies to economic productivity, which also requires long-term stable employment so that businesses invest in the capabilities of their workers.

In addition, this project has systematically examined clustered disadvantages in the labour market by showing that vulnerable workers – regardless of whether they live in an emerging or advanced economy – generally suffer from multiple deprivations at the same time. This finding is extremely relevant as it means that wages do not compensate for poor employment conditions. On the contrary, low-income workers are often working long hours in short-term, unstable, and informal jobs, which do not contribute to social security systems. Although social security systems typically take clustered disadvantages into account (eg, by paying higher levels of benefits if families suffer from multiple deprivations in areas such as health, housing or education), labour policies have not been designed with the principle of clustered disadvantages in mind. Instead of helping workers into better jobs through long-term investments in training, childcare support or their physical and mental health, workfare programmes often push workers into a series of precarious jobs, which do not provide vulnerable workers and their families with better prospects and traps them in a vicious circle of hopelessness.

KEY CONTRIBUTIONS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Four major contributions were made:

- 1 Methodological innovation:** Developed a robust, multidimensional measure to differentiate good and bad jobs that can be applied in both advanced and emerging economies.
- 2 Empirical application:** Used this measure to analyse correlations with GDP, wages, employment rates, and inequalities across demographics such as migrants and regions.
- 3 Academic outreach:** In addition to publishing a wide range of both academic and non-academic publications, the project has fostered interdisciplinary collaboration, engaging 17 researchers across fields such as sociology, economics, geography, demography, and public policy. The project's first article that published its methodology in the journal *World Development* has become extremely widely cited in the job quality literature. In addition, 15 studies have replicated its methodology in nine countries and across Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.
- 4 Policy outreach:** The project has engaged in a continuous dialogue with international institutions such as the UN, the World Bank, the European Union as well as individual governments to disseminate its findings and replicate its measure with official data.

In short, this Global Professorship not only met but exceeded its original goals, offering lasting academic and policy contributions to how poor-quality employment is understood and measured worldwide. The LSE International Inequalities Institute would like to thank the British Academy, which funded this project, for its generous support during the last five years.

RESEARCH TEAM:

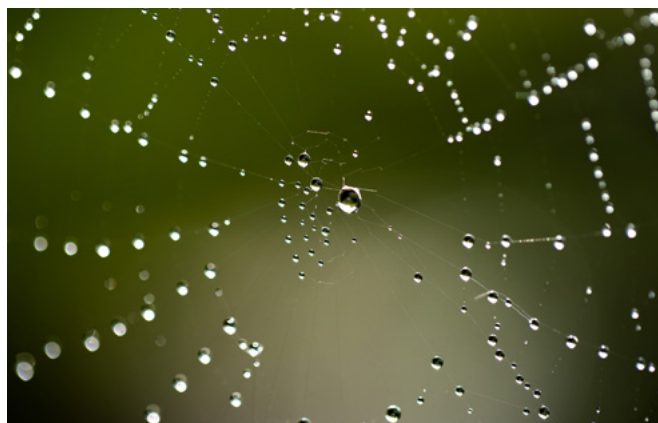
Professor Kirsten Sehnbruch, British Academy
Global Professor and Distinguished Policy Fellow,
LSE III

Dr Mauricio Apablaza, Visiting Fellow, LSE III



SOUTHMOD – simulating tax and benefit policies for development

Photo credit: Alexandra Vo via Unsplash



The SOUTHMOD project was launched in 2016 by the UN University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) to develop and encourage the use of tax-benefit microsimulation models for selected developing countries. The project is currently on its third phase, which started in 2024 and will run until 2027. SOUTHMOD represents a major international collaboration between LSE, UNU-WIDER and researchers from low- and middle-income countries (LMIC).

The models developed under the SOUTHMOD project combine detailed coding of the legislation of taxes and benefits with official household survey data on incomes and expenditures to simulate individual and household tax liabilities and benefit entitlements in each country.

The models can be used to assess the role of policy reforms in contributing to changes in poverty and inequality across countries and over time. They can also be used to simulate *ex ante* the effect of government reform proposals or hypothetical reform scenarios and to assess the cushioning effect of taxes and benefits in the event of economic shocks or demographic changes.

All country models are freely available for non-commercial research use and a key part of the project involves building capacity in LMIC to encourage the use of microsimulation models for policy analysis and to foster interaction between academics and government institutions in the region.

As part of the SOUTHMOD project, Dr H Xavier Jara coordinates the maintenance and use of the tax-benefit microsimulation models in four Latin American countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, which are increasingly employed for academic research and knowledge exchange with government institutions.

During the academic year 2024/25, a SOUTHMOD training course on the use of microsimulation for policy analysis was organised at the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance in La Paz, Bolivia. Dr H Xavier Jara delivered the training which included participants from the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance, Ministry of Social Development and the National Statistical Office. The event ended with the participation of Carlos David Guachalla Terrazas, Vice Minister of Planning and Coordination of Bolivia, who attended a discussion on tax-benefit reforms simulations in Bolivia and who closed the event.



Training course at the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance in La Paz, Bolivia

ECUAMOD, the tax-benefit microsimulation model for Ecuador developed as part of SOUTHMOD, is currently being used to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Economics and Finance in the analysis and monitoring of the quality and equity of spending in non-contributory social protection programmes. This work is financed by UNICEF and represents a direct collaboration between the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III), local researchers and policymakers in Ecuador.

Research making use of the models was presented at UNU-WIDER's 40th anniversary Development Conference, "Safeguarding tomorrow – innovative approaches to growth and equity" in Helsinki on 9 to 11 June 2025. A highlight of this academic year was the publication of the book *Poor Protection: the role of taxes and social benefits in the developing world during crises* by Oxford University Press, which compiles several studies using SOUTHMOD models to examine the role of social protection and taxation systems in cushioning household income during times of crises in LMIC.

RESEARCH TEAM

Internal members

Dr H Xavier Jara, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

External members

Dr Kwabena AduAbabio, Research Associate, UNU-WIDER

Dr Jesse Lastunen, Research Associate, UNU-WIDER

Dr Rodrigo Oliveira, Research Associate, UNU-WIDER

Professor Jukka Pirttilä, Professor of Public Economics, University of Helsinki and Non-Resident Senior Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER

Dr Pia Rattenhuber, Research Fellow, UNU-WIDER

Dr Anna Zasova, Research Associate, UNU-WIDER

Sustainability Performances, Evidence, and Scenarios (SPES)

The Sustainability Performances, Evidence, and Scenarios (SPES) project is part of a Horizon Europe initiative involving researchers from the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) and 11 other European research institutions. The project explores the connections between economic growth, human wellbeing, and sustainability. Its main objective is to support the transition towards sustainable human development across European countries and regions.

SPES aims to achieve this by developing a comprehensive framework for measuring and analysing sustainable human development and transition performance. Moreover, it proposes an integrated policy approach to sustainability, balancing the interconnected social, environmental, and economic dimensions.

The project adopts an interdisciplinary approach, engaging academic partners from various social science fields, and employs a mixed-methods research design that combines both quantitative and qualitative techniques. The findings are intended to directly inform existing policy frameworks, with particular attention to the European Commission's 2030 Agenda, the European Green Deal, and Next Generation EU.

During the 2024/25 academic year, III researchers involved in SPES have been finalising their research on assessing vulnerabilities to climate change in Europe. The project has produced two key outputs:

SPES Focus – Work Package #6, “Review of the most likely risks and shocks in Europe”, co-authored by Amaia Palencia-Esteban and Annaelena Valentini. This paper systematically reviews the most likely medium-term risks and shocks facing Europe over the next five to ten years. Through the harmonisation of multiple reports using thematic and content analysis, the study identifies 15 unified risk categories, ranked by frequency of mention. The most significant and recurring risks include climate change, geopolitical tensions, and biodiversity loss. The report emphasises the interconnected nature of these risks, focusing particularly on climate change due to its broad and complex impacts. Its goal is to provide a consistent, comparative overview of emerging threats across European and global contexts.

D6.2, “Vulnerabilities in Europe during times of transition”. This report develops a multidimensional framework for



Photo credit: Paula Prekopova via Unsplash

evaluating cumulative exposure to climate-related risks across Europe, considering factors such as health, energy, transport, and socioeconomic conditions. By mapping the distribution of these risks and analysing their interdependencies, the study highlights their interconnected nature and identifies key socioeconomic drivers. Additionally, by projecting cumulative exposure through to 2050 under various climate scenarios, the report indicates a gradual increase in risk exposure over time.

These research outputs have been presented at several international events, including: The 5th SPES Consortium Meeting, hosted by TÁRKI Social Research Institute, held from 27 to 29 November 2024, in Budapest. The Renaissance in Economics: 2nd International Conference – Manifesto for a New Economy, held at the Department of Economics and Management, University of Florence, Italy, 5 to 6 June 2025.

RESEARCH TEAM

Dr Paolo Brunori, Project Leader, Sustainability Performances, Evidence and Scenarios and Associate Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Dr H Xavier Jara, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson, Policy Fellow, Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity, LSE III

Dr Amaia Palencia-Esteban, Research Officer, LSE III

Dr Pedro Salas-Rojo, Research Officer, LSE III

Dr Nora Waitkus, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

UK LIS Satellite Office

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) database is the largest available income database of harmonised microdata from approximately 50 countries, spanning five decades. The UK LIS Satellite Office aims to promote the use of the LIS databases and serve as the point of liaison between LIS and the community of data users in the UK. Now in its fourth year, it has done significant work to consolidate its status, and regular usage has increased since its launch.

Following the success of the Inaugural III-LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference²⁰ in 2023 at LSE, the 2nd III-LIS Conference was held on 27 to 28 February 2025, in Luxembourg. Similarly to the first edition, this conference brought together leading scholars, researchers, and policymakers from around the world to present and discuss the latest advancements in inequality research.

Organised by LIS and the UK LIS Satellite Office at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III), and co-sponsored by the (LIS)²ER Initiative, the University of Luxembourg, and POST Luxembourg the conference featured 79 research papers,²¹ two keynote lectures, and a special event dedicated to the discussion of Professor Branko Milanovic's latest book, *Visions of Inequality: from the French Revolution to the end of the Cold War*. Professor Milanovic is from the Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

The event opened with welcoming remarks from Professor Francisco Ferreira, LSE III and UK LIS Satellite Office, and Professor Peter Lanjouw, LIS and VU Amsterdam. In their address, they applauded the success of the UK LIS Satellite Office in advancing the use of the LIS Databases both in the UK and globally while also serving as a key liaison between LIS and its data user community in the UK. They emphasised the significance of collaborative research efforts, particularly in light of the successful first edition of the conference and highlighted the importance of fostering continued engagement through the 2nd III-LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference.



RESEARCH TEAM

Internal members

Dr H Xavier Jara, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Dr Nora Waitkus, Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

External members

Teresa Munzi, Director of Operations, Luxembourg Income Study (LIS)

20 Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg, '2023 Inaugural III/LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference'. Published on LISDATACENTER.ORG

21 Cross-National Data Center in Luxembourg, '2ND III/LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference Programme'. Published on LISDATACENTER.ORG

NETWORKS

The III networks are former research programmes that continue to be active in research, collaboration, and impact in their subject area.

Cities, Jobs, and Economic Change



Photo Credit: BullRun via Adobe Stock

The Cities, Jobs, and Economic Change network continues as a vibrant group of scholars. Following a successful workshop on, “Innovation and inequality in Europe and the United States”, Professor David Soskice has been leading projects on follow-up funding bids. Professor Michael Storper presented at a Harvard workshop on these issues, and a working paper will be out in the autumn. Postdoctoral Research Officer, Dr Martina Parry, has continued to work on projects related to spatial inequality. Dr Zhiwu Wei, former LSE III Research Assistant now at the University of Cambridge

and Professor Neil Lee produced supporting analysis for the Asian Development Bank’s Annual Policy Review.²² Professor Neil Lee spoke at the Science, Innovation and Technology Select Committee on, “Innovation and spatial inequality” and won the Regional Studies Association “Best Book” prize. Max Herbertson has published research on, “Place-based policy in the US and Europe” in a National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) collection.

²² Asian Development Bank, ‘Asian Development Policy Report 2025 Background Papers’. Published on ADB.ORG

Global Economies of Care

Alpa Shah continued to advance her thinking on the global economies of care network, to develop the concept of planetary care, broadening the concept of care to address the complex international inequalities challenges of our contemporary polycrisis. She argues that care must go beyond the act of looking after others—it should be understood as a value, not just a task, essential to the healthy reproduction of communities, enabling not just survival but the potential to thrive. This expanded vision of care includes actively confronting oppressive and exploitative inequalities and hierarchies and draws on feminist social reproduction theory. It also involves centring care for the environment – forests, land and water – as integral to the socialisation of people and the cultivation of just, sustainable societies. As Chair of Social Anthropology at the University of Oxford and McGeorge Fellow at the University of Melbourne, Shah developed these ideas through engagement with the work of environmental justice activists featured in her recent award-winning book, *The Incarcerations*, which received the 2025 *Times of India* and JK Paper AuthER Award. She facilitated conversations and reading groups, and presented papers working on a major article based on these ideas.

Shalini Grover's extensive research on global economies of care between 2020 and 2024 at the III will culminate in three major publications in 2026. First, Grover's decolonial anthropological history, *Caregiving at the Centre of Empire and the Contemporary World Order*, is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. The book covers 100 years and builds a new social history decade-by-decade of caregiving workforces and their difficult intimacies with employers and wider communities, encompassing both colonial and postcolonial experiences. Grover argues for the value of the past, present and future for documenting invisible everyday caregiving inequalities and legacies. The study's long-term focus on the performance of caring labour in colonial, post-colonial, neo-liberal and patriarchal settings, fills a notable scholarly gap for non-Western societies.

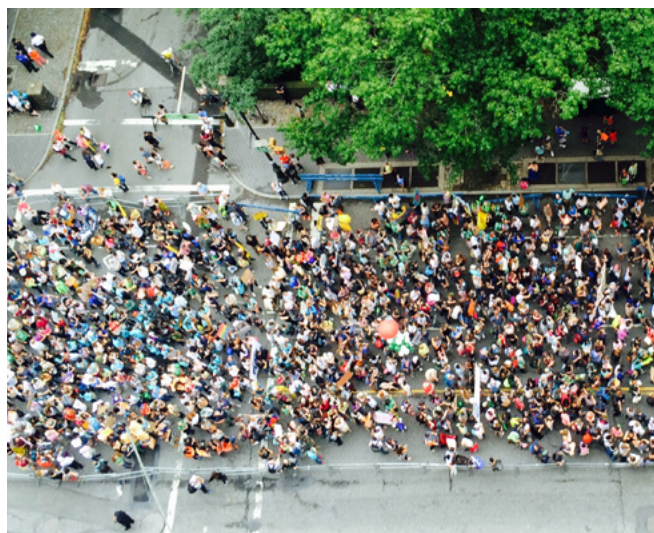


Photo credit: Adobe Stock

Second, along with her co-editors, Thomas Chambers, Oxford Brookes University, and Patricia Jeffery, University of Edinburgh, an edited volume on care as “intimate labour” is forthcoming with Zubaan Press (India). The volume titled, *Intimate Livelihoods Feminised Domestic-Care Labour, Surrogacy and Sex Work in India* brings forward eight ethnographic chapters, covering forms of domestic labour, care work, surrogacy, sex work and related fields. Third, along with her co-editor, Kaveri Qureshi, University of Edinburgh, an edited volume focusing on Asia is forthcoming with Rutgers University Press (United States). The volume titled, *Divorce Portals and the Post-Divorce in Asian Settings* brings together eight ethnographic chapters demonstrating that marriage, divorce and normative care arrangements still matter in Asian contexts and diasporas, along with new ways of how divorced individuals and families interpret change.

Politics of Inequality

Photo Credit: BullRun via Adobe Stock



The Politics of Inequality research programme officially ended in December 2024, becoming a research network. To mark the end of the research programme, we hosted a two-day international conference in November 2024, that included presentations by both academics and AFSEE Fellows. In addition to paper presentations, the conference also hosted a multi-media exhibition of photographs and videos, and a live podcast session led by AFSEE Senior Fellow Barbara van Paassen who produces the *People vs Inequality* podcast series.

We are now working to publish a selection of the conference papers in an edited volume. As a research network, members of the research programme will continue to work on their projects, and we hope to develop new collaborations going forward.

ONGOING PROJECTS LED BY CORE TEAM MEMBERS

1 Exploring the potential of Academic-Practitioner Collaborations (AcPrac)

The aims of the AcPrac project, led by Professor Armine Ishkanian, LSE III and Department of Social Policy, are to better understand the potential and challenges of academic-practitioner research collaborations and how to create and sustain collaborations that positively contribute to social change and tackling inequalities. Over the past three years the AcPrac project has produced several outputs including academic articles, 14 case studies written by AFSEE Fellows, a good practice guide, blog posts, etc. In March 2025, the project commissioned a further 13 case studies by AFSEE Fellows which will be published in 2026.

The Funding Policy and Funders (FPF) sub-project, led by Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson, held a one-day workshop for funders in February 2025 that examined the role and impact of funders on driving research collaborations. FPF has produced a working paper, workshop report and blog.

2 Resisting inequalities through a Global Arts Network: online and offline barriers to and facilitators of connection and impact (RIGAN)

The RIGAN project, which is funded by a grant from the AFSEE Atlantic Equity Challenge fund, will run from 2024 to 2026. Led by Professors Ellen Helsper and Bart Cammaerts from the Department of Media and Communications and AFSEE Senior Fellows, Jack Nissan and Roseline Orwa, the project will study the



Photo Credit: Carl Goodwin

Politics of Inequality conference, 21-22 November 2024



Photo Credit: Carl Goodwin

Politics of Inequality conference, 21-22 November 2024

development of an international network of arts and community organisations which use the arts to challenge hierarchies and structures of inequalities in their local contexts. It will develop a series of participatory arts productions and collaborations, accessible online and hybrid platforms for remote collaboration, live performance events within communities, and in-person exchanges.

3 Social change and racial inequalities in post-slavery plantation societies (19th to 21st century)

The “Social change and racial inequalities in post-slavery plantation societies (19th to 21st century)” project, led by Dr Maël Lavenaire, LSE III, explores the persistence of socio-racial inequalities in societies shaped by colonial slavery in the Americas. Focusing on Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, Guadeloupe, Martinique, with extension to the Southern United States, the project examines the long-lasting effects of plantation economies, particularly following the abolition of slavery in the mid-19th century. The project integrates spatial and temporal dimensions, linking marginalised post-slavery societies to broader patterns of global socio-economic inequality. This ongoing project will produce articles and a monograph.

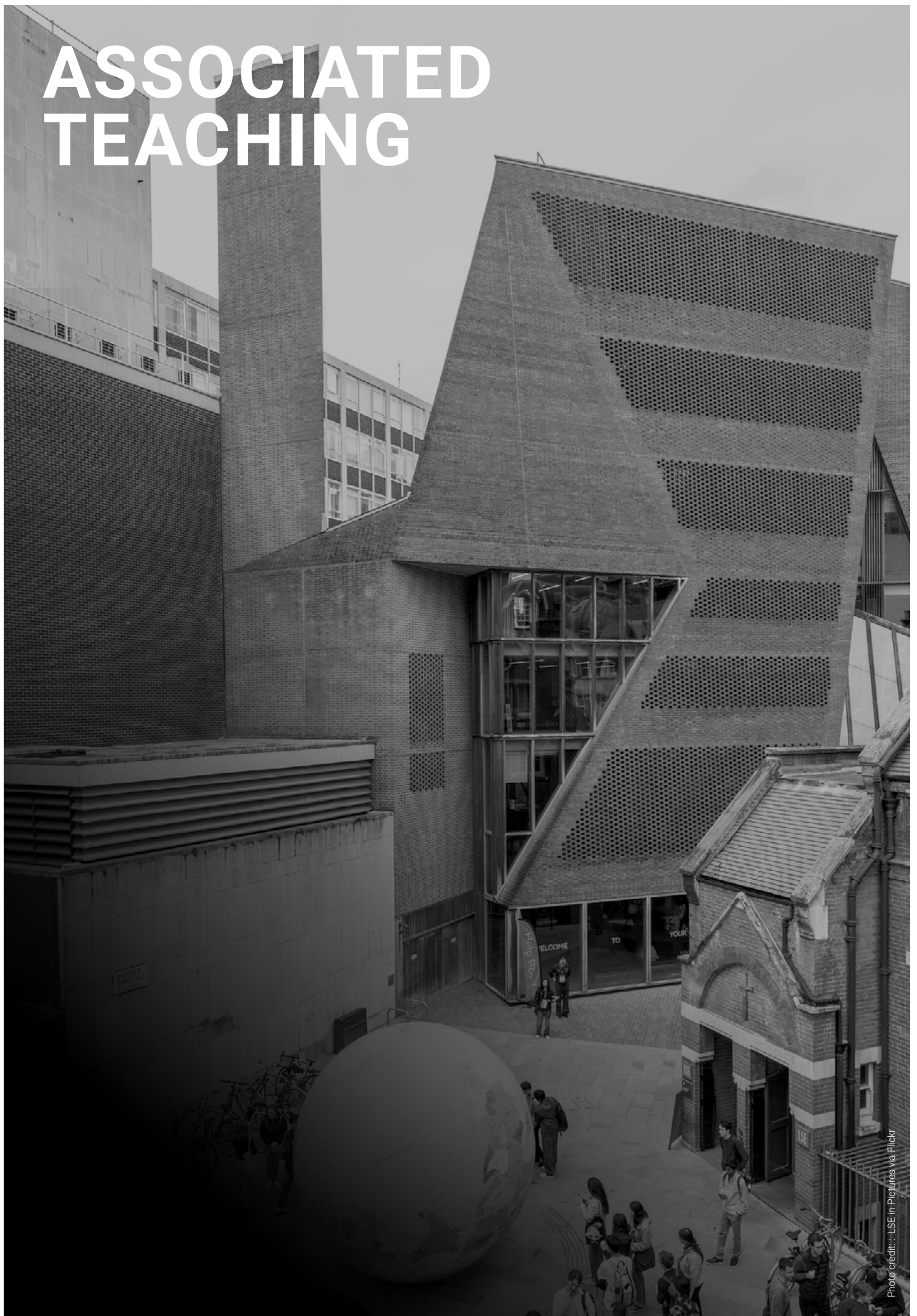
4 Rethinking MEDIA Literacy and Digital Skills in Europe (REMEDIIS)

The REMEDIIS project, led by Professor Ellen Helsper, Department of Media and Communications, is funded by a number of funders including UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Estonian Research Council. It seeks to provide a framework for evidence-based evaluative research of media literacy and digital skills. It aims to inform practitioners and policymakers about so far severely underdeveloped evidence that links interventions around different types of media literacy and digital skills in different life domains (such as education, identity development, social relations) to different types of positive outcomes in terms of (digital) inclusion and wellbeing. The project seeks to both improve existing theoretical knowledge about the actual outcomes of interventions and to produce evidence-based policy recommendations and develop a user-friendly, customisable evaluation toolkit.

5 Meritocracy and racism: a perspective from the Global South

The “Meritocracy and racism” project, led by Dr Annalena Oppel, LSE III, examines under which circumstances and why do individuals form and adopt meritocratic beliefs about agency in their society, given experiences that contradict their validity and it considers the role of race in manifesting or challenging meritocratic values. This project has also developed a research methodology in creative (re-)imagining; looking at how success is framed and imagined beyond the categorical confinements of meritocracy. This project has produced several journal articles and will further produce a monograph.

ASSOCIATED TEACHING



DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The Leverhulme Trust awarded The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) 15 doctoral scholarships between 2015 and 2017 worth £1 million. This is for students to undertake interdisciplinary research on the challenge of escalating inequalities. LSE continued the programme by providing a total of 15 matching “analysing and challenging inequalities” studentships from 2018 until 2023 to doctoral candidates working on inequalities. While based in different LSE departments, the students are associated with the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) through the doctoral programme, an interdisciplinary series of taught seminars and discussions led by Professor Francisco Ferreira, Dr H Xavier Jara and Dr Michael Vaughan, open to doctoral students from across LSE

departments, who are also researching aspects of inequalities.

The programme aims to increase students’ understanding of the mechanisms that link the economic dimensions of inequality with social, cultural and political dimensions at the global level. The 2023/24 doctoral programme included lectures by Professor Francisco Ferreira and Professor Nicola Lacey on their perspectives on different methodological approaches to the study of inequality. In the latter part of the Autumn Term and during Winter Term, 10 student presentations were organised as part of the doctoral seminar, with presenters from the Department of Social Policy and the Department of Economic History, as well as from visiting PhD students.



Dr Sandhya Fuchs was announced³⁰ winner of the James Busuttil Medal and Prize

for Human Rights, awarded by the Royal Asiatic Society for her book on the Prevention of Atrocities Act in India. This book was based on her doctoral thesis which was funded by the III’s “Analysing and Challenging Inequalities” PhD studentship.



The doctoral programme aims to increase students’ understanding of the mechanisms that link the economic dimensions of inequality with social, cultural and political dimensions at the global level.”

30 Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, ‘The James J. Busuttil Medal and Prize for Human Rights – Winners Announced’. Published on [ROYALASIATICSOCIETY.ORG](https://royalasiaticsociety.org)

MSC INEQUALITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCE (MISS)

We are delighted to co-host with the LSE Department of Sociology what we believe is the world's first interdisciplinary master's course examining issues of inequality. We admitted our first cohort in 2015 and our 10th cohort in September 2024 including the residential Fellows of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme

- Allows students to place issues of inequality in a fully international context.
- Gives students the skills and awareness to go on to conduct research in the area of inequalities.

More information about the programme and how to apply is on the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) website.³¹

10 YEARS OF MISS: ALUMNI REUNION EVENT

On Thursday 5 June, we marked a special milestone with a reunion event celebrating 10 years of the MSc in Inequalities and Social Science at LSE. Alumni from across the years returned to catch up with their cohorts and connect with fellow graduates from the wider programme.

The evening opened with reflections from faculty members, who shared insights into the evolution of the programme, from its inception to today. Their remarks highlighted the programme's enduring relevance and the achievements of its alumni.

Following the speeches, a reception was held with drinks and light refreshments, with alumni sharing their memories from the course and how it has continued to influence them.



Photo Credit: Maria Moore

MISS alumni event, 5 June 2025

MSC AIMS

The MSc offers a comprehensive and wide-ranging programme that draws on expertise and state-of-the-art teaching from leading academics in the Departments of Sociology, Anthropology, Economics, Geography and Environment, Government, Social Policy, Media and Communications, Gender Studies, and LSE Law School. The programme:

- Introduces students to a range of interdisciplinary approaches to the social scientific analysis of inequalities.
- Develops theoretical awareness of different conceptions of the meaning of inequality and its various dimensions.
- Introduces students to the political economy of inequality and the role of political institutions in combating inequality.
- Introduces students to different methods for the measurement of inequality, both quantitative and qualitative.
- Makes students familiar with debates on the causes and consequences of increasing global inequality.

31 International Inequalities Institute, 'Teaching'. Published on LSE.AC.UK

GRADUATE DESTINATIONS



Sira Thiam

Sira Thiam is currently a paralegal at the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund, working on document review on instances of police misconduct and brutality. She has experience in the international human rights field, specifically on projects supporting minority and indigenous disability organisations. Additionally, she has worked on a UK-focused police accountability project that aims to ensure Black communities' concerns are centred in the transformation of policing.



Nivedita Narayan

Nivedita is a researcher at the Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research and Data (WISERD), Cardiff University, engaged in civil society research since 2023. Her current project looks at devolved governance, civil society activism and welfare for refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. She completed her MSc in Inequalities and Social Science from LSE in 2022. Her thesis explored the experiences of social mobility for Dalits in India's public sector. Previously she was a design academic in India, working closely with the marginalised craft communities.



MISS alumni event, 5 June 2025

Photo Credit: Maria Moore



MISS alumni event, 5 June 2025

Photo Credit: Maria Moore

EVENTS, COMMUNICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND IMPACT



PUBLIC EVENTS

The idea of moral socialism

Wednesday 11 June 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Professor Lea Ypi, Professor of Political Theory, LSE and Fellow of the British Academy; **Amartya Sen**, Thomas W Lamont University Professor, Professor of Economics and Philosophy, Harvard University and Senior Fellow at the Harvard Society of Fellows

Chair: Lord Nicholas Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government, Chair of the Grantham Research Institute, LSE

Racial justice and wealth inequality: a call for action

Tuesday 10 June 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Dr Shabna Begum, CEO of the Runnymede Trust; Dr Kojo Koram, Reader in Law, Birkbeck School of Law; Professor Mike Savage, Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III; Mina Mahmoudzadeh, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, LSE; Esiri Bukata, MSc Inequalities and Social Sciences alumna, LSE III

Chair: Dr Faiza Shaheen, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III



Photo credit: Catarina Heeckt

Professor Lea Ypi at LSE, 11 June 2025



Photo credit: Catarina Heeckt

Professor Amartya Sen at LSE, 11 June 2025

Inequality in the 21st century

Co-hosted by the Department of Sociology

Friday 6 June 2025. In-person event.

Speakers: Professor Gurminder K Bhambra, Professor of Historical Sociology, University of Sussex; Professor Michèle Lamont, Professor of Sociology and of African and African American Studies and the Robert I Goldman Professor of European Studies, Harvard University; Professor Mike Savage, Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Chair: Dr Kristin Surak, Associate Professor of Political Sociology, LSE



Zarah Sultana at LSE, 4 February 2025

Democracy and the right to protest in the UK

Co-hosted by the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity

Monday 24 March 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Dr Richard Martin, Assistant Professor of Law, LSE Law School; Sam Nadel, PhD Candidate, Department of Social Policy, LSE; Pascale Frazer-Carroll, Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity, Campaigner and Social Impact Director

Chair: Dr George Kunnath, Associate Professor (Education) and Lifelong Engagement Lead, AFSEE

Where do we draw the line? Exploring an extreme wealth line

Thursday 6 March 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Fernanda Balata, Political Economist, New Economics Foundation; Professor Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and Professor of Law, UC Louvain and Sciences Po (Paris); Professor Ingrid Robeyns, Author and Chair in Ethics of Institutions, Ethics Institute, Utrecht University; Gary Stevenson, Writer and Economist

Chair: Dr Tania Burchardt, Associate Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and Deputy Director of STICERD, LSE

Peak injustice: solving Britain's inequality crisis

Co-hosted by the Department of Sociology

Monday 24 February 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Professor Danny Dorling, Halford Mackinder Professor of Geography, University of Oxford; Dr Danny Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation and Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III; Professor Kitty Stewart, Professor of Social Policy and Associate Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE); Polly Toynbee, Journalist and Writer

Chair: Professor Aaron Reeves, Professor of Sociology, LSE

Wealth, poverty and enduring inequality: let's talk wealthier

Wednesday 19 February 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Dr Sarah Kerr, Research Fellow in Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice Research Programme, LSE III; Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director, Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity and Professor, Department of Social Policy, LSE; Dr Rajiv Prabhakar, Senior Lecturer in Personal Finance at the Open University; Frank Soodeen, Director of Communications and Public Engagement, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Chair: Professor Mike Savage, Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice Research Programme Leader, LSE III and Martin White Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, LSE

Does class inequality still matter? The Great British Class survey ten years on

Tuesday 4 February 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Zarah Sultana MP, Independent MP for Coventry South; Professor Mike Savage, Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice Research Programme Leader, LSE III and Martin White Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, LSE; Aditya Chakraborty, Senior Economics Commentator, *The Guardian*; Clare MacGillivray, Director, Making Rights Real and Atlantic Fellow for Social and Economic Equity

Chair: Dr Faiza Shaheen, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III

Power to the people

Monday 27 January 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: **Dr Danny Sriskandarajah**, Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation and Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III; **Jo Swinson**, Director, Partners for a New Economy (P4NE) and Visiting Professor, Cranfield University; **Lysa John**, Executive Director, Atlantic Institute

Chair: **Professor Armine Ishkanian**, Executive Director, Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity and Professor, Department of Social Policy, LSE

Feeding the machine: the hidden human labour powering AI

Co-hosted by the LSE Data Science Institute

Wednesday 4 December 2024. In-person and online event.

Speakers: **Dr Callum Cant**, Senior Lecturer, University of Essex Business School; **Dr James Muldoon**, Reader in Management at the University of Essex, Research Associate at the University of Oxford and Head of Digital Research at the Autonomy Think Tank; **Professor Kirsten Sehnbruch**, British Academy Global Professor and Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III

Chair: **Dr Kate Vredenburg**, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method, LSE



Photo credit: Maria Moore

Jo Swinson at LSE, 27 January 2025

From rage to riches: how fixing wealth inequality defeats populism

Wednesday 27 November 2024. In-person and online event.

Speakers: **Liam Byrne MP**, Labour MP for Birmingham Hodge Hill and Solihull North; **Dr Faiza Shaheen**, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III; **Professor Jonathan Hopkin**, Professor of Comparative Politics, Department of Government, LSE

Chair: **Professor Mike Savage**, Martin White Professor of Sociology, LSE

Fragments of home: refugee housing, humanitarian design and the politics of shelter

Co-hosted by the Department of Geography and Environment

Tuesday 19 November 2024. In-person and online event.

Speakers: **Dr Tom Scott-Smith**, Director of the Refugee Studies Centre and Associate Professor of Forced Migration, University of Oxford; **Nick Henderson**, CEO of the Irish Refugee Council; **Dr Myfanwy James**, Assistant Professor in International Development and Humanitarian Emergencies, LSE

Chair: **Professor Neil Lee**, Professor of Economic Geography, LSE



Photo credit: Maria Moore

Aditya Chakraborty at LSE, 4 February 2025

The most unequal region in the world: combatting inequality in Latin America

Tuesday 29 October 2024. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Dr Valentina Contreras, Research Officer, LSE III; Professor Julián Messina, Professor, Universidad de Alicante; Dr Sebastián Nieto Parra, Head of Latin America and the Caribbean, OECD Development Centre; Professor Andrés Velasco, Professor of Public Policy and Dean of the School of Public Policy, LSE

Chair: Professor Francisco H G Ferreira, Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies and Director, LSE III

The case for a four-day week

Wednesday 23 October 2024. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Joe Ryle, Director of the 4 Day Week Campaign; Fran Heathcote, General Secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS); Professor Kirsten Sehnbruch, British Academy Global Professor and Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III

Chair: Dr Tania Burchardt, Associate Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE), Deputy Director of STICERD, and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Policy, LSE



Photo credit: Maria Moore

Valentina Contreras at LSE, 29 October 2024

Richer and more equal: a new history of wealth in the west

Wednesday 16 October 2024. In-person and online event.

Speaker: Professor Daniel Waldenström, Professor of Economics, Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN Stockholm)

Chair: Professor Francisco H G Ferreira, Amartya Sen Professor of Inequality Studies and Director, LSE III

Born to rule: the making and remaking of the British elite

Co-hosted by the Department of Sociology

Thursday 3 October 2024. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Professor Sam Friedman, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, LSE; Hashi Mohamed, Barrister, Landmark Chambers; Professor Aaron Reeves, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, LSE; Professor Lauren Rivera, Peter G Peterson Chair of Corporate Ethics, Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management; Dr Faiza Shaheen, Economist, Writer and Commentator

Chair: Professor Suzanne Hall, Professor of Sociology and Head of Department, Department of Sociology, LSE



Photo credit: Maria Moore

Professor Andrés Velasco at LSE, 29 October 2024

LSE FESTIVAL EVENTS

Breaking the Jeff Bezos model of new technology

Wednesday 18 June 2025. In-person and online event.

Speakers: Dr Faiza Shaheen, Distinguished Policy Fellow, LSE III and an Economist, Writer, and Political Commentator and Activist; Dr Hilary Cottam, Author and Honorary Professor, Institute of Innovation and

Public Purpose, UCL; Professor Jack Stilgoe, Professor in Science and Technology Studies, UCL

Chair: Professor Aaron Reeves, Professor of Sociology, LSE and Visiting Professor, LSE III



Photo credit: Catarina Heeckt

INEQUALITIES SEMINAR SERIES

Jobless industrialization

Tuesday 10 June 2025

Speaker: Professor Marcela Eslava, Professor of Economics, Universidad de Los Andes

Cumulative exposure to climate risks in Europe: a multidimensional framework for present and future vulnerabilities

Tuesday 3 June 2025

Speaker: Dr Amaia Palencia Esteban, Research Officer, LSE III

Patrons, protégés, and peers: workplace mechanisms of intergenerational inequality

Tuesday 27 May 2025

Speaker: Dr Per Engzell, Associate Professor of Sociology, UCL Social Research Institute

Narratives of inequality

Tuesday 13 May 2025

Speakers: Professor Joan Costa-Font, Professor of Health Economics, Department of Health Policy, LSE and Co-Leader of the Perceptions of Inequality Research Programme, LSE III; Professor Frank Cowell, Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, LSE and Co-Leader of the Perceptions of Inequality Research Programme, LSE III; Jakob Dirksen, PhD Candidate, Department of Social Policy, LSE

Equity vs efficiency of indirect taxation in India

Tuesday 6 May 2025

Speaker: Dr Pierre Bachas, Economist, World Bank Development Research Group

Hope for changemakers: evidence and narratives

Tuesday 25 March 2025

Speaker: Dr Irene Guijt, Head of Evidence and Strategic Learning, Oxfam GB

Lived experiences of financial hardship and perspectives on inequality: can Natural Language Processing (NLP) techniques assist in the qualitative analysis of large sets of biographical interviews?

Tuesday 18 March 2025

Speaker: Professor Jane Elliott, Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III

Leaving legacies and liabilities: the distribution of wealth at death

Tuesday 11 March 2025

Speaker: Dr Franziska Disslbacher, Assistant Professor, Research Institute Economics of Inequality and the Department of Socioeconomics, WU Vienna University of Economics and Business



Photo credit: Maria Moore

Using microdata and microsimulations to estimate historical income distributions at high frequency: Italy, 1861–2021

Tuesday 4 March 2025

Speaker: Professor Giovanni Vecchi, Professor of Economics, University of Rome Tor Vergata

The historical incarceration penalty in the U.S.

Tuesday 18 February 2025

Speaker: Dr Ellora Derenoncourt, Assistant Professor of Economics, Princeton University

POLINEQUAL: exploring representations of economic inequality and their implications in three European welfare regimes

Tuesday 11 February 2025

Speakers: Professor Sonja Zmerli, Professor, Sciences Po Grenoble, UGA; Daniel Walsh, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Sciences Po Grenoble, UGA

(De)Mobilizing effects of misinformation: evidence from Brazil

Tuesday 4 February 2025

Speaker: Dr Fred Batista, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Political economy of urban land grabbing in India: local developers, fragmented development and perils of governance

Tuesday 28 January 2025

Speaker: Dr Ajay Kumar-Gautam, Sir Ratan Tata Visiting Fellow, LSE III

Poverty without poverty line

Tuesday 21 January 2025

Speaker: Dr Olivier Sterck, Associate Professor, University of Antwerp and University of Oxford

The sound of difference – discussing race, class and the politics of “diversity” in classical music

Tuesday 10 December 2024

Speaker: Dr Kristina Kolbe, Assistant Professor in Sociology of Arts and Culture, Erasmus School of History, Culture and Communication, Erasmus University of Rotterdam and Visiting Fellow, LSE III

Local wealth inequality fuels political protests: new big-data evidence from 89 Global South countries

Tuesday 26 November 2024

Speaker: Dr Davide Luca, Associate Professor of Economic Geography, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge and Visiting Fellow, LSE III

The impact of extreme climate events on income distribution in Italy: a municipality-level analysis

Tuesday 12 November 2024

Speaker: Dr Elisa Palagi, Postdoctoral Researcher, Institute of Economics, Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies

Changing children’s concentration on income distribution and its consequences for inequality and poverty

Tuesday 29 October 2024

Speaker: Professor Berkay Ozcan, Professor of Social and Public Policy, Department of Social Policy, LSE

Freedom counts: cross-country empirical evidence on the ranking of opportunity sets

Tuesday 22 October 2024

Speaker: Professor Erik Schokkaert, Professor Emeritus of Welfare and Health Economics, KU Leuven

Welfare goes global: making progress and catching up

Tuesday 15 October 2024

Speaker: Professor Richard Rose, Professor and Director of the Centre for the Study of Public Policy, University of Strathclyde

Multiple oppressions and resistances in spaces of inequality: a study from the indigenous landscapes of eastern India

Tuesday 8 October 2024

Speaker: Dr Richard Toppo, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Antwerp

COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC EVENTS

The LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) hosted a rich schedule of 14 public events this year, with 1,709 in-person and 3,744 online attendees. Our public events are recorded and shared with those who are not able to attend. This year we saw a total of 60,050 podcast downloads and 10,129 views on video recordings.



1,709

**IN-PERSON
ATTENDEES**



3,744

**ONLINE
ATTENDEES**



60,050

**PODCAST
DOWNLOADS**



10,129

**VIEWS OF
VIDEO
RECORDINGS**

SEMINARS

The III hosts the multidisciplinary Inequalities Seminar Series that is open to the public. This year, we hosted 23 seminars in the hybrid Inequalities Seminar Series attracting 383 in-person and 233 online attendees over the year. This year's series hosted speakers from a range of disciplines, including economics, sociology, political science, international development, anthropology and social policy.



383

**IN-PERSON
ATTENDEES**



233

**ONLINE
ATTENDEES**

SOCIAL MEDIA

Our social media platforms remain an important channel to update our audiences on III activities. We continue to steadily grow our audiences across our channels, including Facebook with 5,101 followers, LinkedIn with 7,447 followers and X with 28,116 followers. We also launched an account on Bluesky, gathering 3,104 followers.



5,064

**BLUESKY
FOLLOWERS**



5,101

**FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS**



7,447

**LINKEDIN
FOLLOWERS**



28,116

**X
FOLLOWERS**

WORKING PAPERS

The ILL Working Paper Series provides ILL researchers and affiliates with a platform to publish their new research. This year, the series had 2,932 total downloads.



Most downloaded papers

Inherited wealth in post-apartheid South Africa: new perspectives from probate records
Rebecca Simson and Mina Mahmoudzadeh

1,464

Inherited inequality, meritocracy, and the purpose of economic growth
Francisco H. G. Ferreira,
Paolo Brunori

487

Southern Germany's innovation clusters: regional growth coalitions in the knowledge economy?
Frieder Mitsch, Anke Hassel,
David Soskice

440

WEBSITE

The ILL website is a key platform for communicating our projects, research and teaching offerings. This year we saw 107,712 page views on the website, with the most popular pages being the homepage, AFSEE landing page and our staff listing.



107,712 WEBSITE PAGE VIEWS

NEWSLETTER

The ILL sends out a fortnightly newsletter to update our audiences on where we are mentioned in the media, new projects and staff, publications and more. Our newsletter continues to be popular with 2,483 subscribers and a 31.67% open rate (compared to the industry average of 23 per cent).



2,483 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

PRESS

This year, the work and expertise of the ILL have been featured across a wide range of media outlets, across a range of topics on inequality and current affairs.

In October 2024, researchers at the Centre for the Analysis of Taxation (CenTax) published a report³¹ revealing that the UK loses at least £500 million annually by not applying Capital Gains Tax (CGT) to individuals who move abroad. The findings received widespread media attention, including coverage in *City A.M.*³³, *Bloomberg*³⁴, and *The i*³⁵.

The Economist also spotlighted Ana María Ibáñez, a member of our Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review³⁶ Panel, in the first article³⁷ of a new series examining the persistent inequality challenges facing the region.

As debate around tax policy intensified in the lead-up to the UK budget, the issue of tax flight among the ultra-wealthy remained a key focus. ILL's research on the topic³⁸ was cited in *The Guardian*³⁹ and also featured in *The Telegraph*.⁴⁰

32 CenTax, 'Business owners who emigrate: Evidence from Companies House records'. Published on CENTAX.ORG

33 CityAM, 'Foreign chargeable gains'. Published on CITYAM.COM

34 Bloomberg UK. Published on BLOOMBERG.COM/UK

35 Inews, 'Capital gains tax must be paid by business founders who leave UK, Reeves told'. Published on INEWS.CO.UK

36 LACIR, 'Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review'. Published on LACIR.LSE.AC.UK

37 The Economist, 'Slums, swimming pools and Latin America's inequality'. Published on ECONOMIST.COM

38 LSE Research Online, 'Tax flight? Britain's wealthiest and their attachment to place'. Published on EPRINTS.LSE.AC.UK

39 The Guardian, 'The super-rich claim they'll flee to escape a Labour 'tax grab'. Here's an idea for how to stop them'. Published on THEGUARDIAN.COM

40 The Telegraph, 'A capital gains tax raid in the Budget would cause misery for renters'. Published on TELEGRAPH.CO.UK

BLOG

Following its launch in February 2024, the LSE International Inequalities Institute's (III) blog, *LSE Inequalities*, entered its first full academic year in operation, showcasing a wide range of expert views and analysis on the inequalities afflicting the world today.

Overseen by the Managing Editor, Dan Nixon, in the 2024/25 academic year we published 57 posts (from 79 authors) investigating the social, economic, political and cultural dimensions of inequalities around the world – and ways these could be addressed.



85,331 VIEWS



51,235 USERS



429 AVERAGE VIEWS PER ARTICLE

Among the topics that have been covered most on the blog so far are "Politics of inequality", "Income inequalities", "Wealth inequalities", "Jobs and work", "Race" and "Gender": by the end of the academic year, each of these categories featured 10 or more posts.

Our blog posts have been linked to in several academic and policy publications. They also continue to be picked up in the media. For example, two recent pieces on inequalities in South Africa – Rebecca Simon's post about Black middle class wealth and Chana Teeger's post about teaching Apartheid in history lessons – were featured in *Time* magazine and the *Business Day* newspaper, respectively.⁴¹ With a UK focus, Yonatan Berman and Tora Hovland's post about the excess deaths caused by austerity, which was widely reported following publication in June 2024, received further coverage at the start of 2025,⁴² while Faiza Shaheen's work on how to counter the Far Right was discussed on *BBC Radio London*.⁴³ Some of these posts are shown below.

A big effort has been made this year to feature commentary and analysis from experts outside of academia. We published the views of elected officials (eg, Mlondi Mveli Mdluli, a Member of Parliament in South Africa), respected journalists (eg, Simon Kuper and Grace Blakeley), and film-makers (eg, Max Duncan); we also featured the perspectives of several NGOs and civil society organisations, including the Resolution Foundation, Oxfam, Amnesty International, the New Economics Foundation, the Runnymede Trust, the Fairness Foundation and the Institute for Policy Studies (US). Again, some of these are highlighted below.

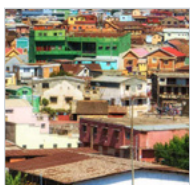
Looking ahead, we are working to grow the platform further with the view to making *LSE Inequalities* a "go to" online space for rigorous thought leadership and debate for everyone interested in inequalities issues.

41 See: <https://time.com/7287684/history-us-white-south-africa/> (published in May 2025) and <https://www.businesslive.co.za/bd/national/2025-01-23-sas-history-education-masks-apartheids-true-impact-lse-scholar-says/> (published in January 2025).

42 See: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/benefit-cuts-pip-dwp-welfare-savings-b2717050.html> and <https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360558586/austerity-kills-its-not-actual-threat-facing-us>.

43 The Alpa Patel show, 24 March 2025.

SPOTLIGHT ON POSTS THAT WERE FEATURED IN THE MEDIA



Black middle class wealth in South Africa and Kenya

Those coming from Black middle class backgrounds in South Africa and Kenya were prevented from owning many types of assets under colonial rule and Apartheid. How have these groups come to share in the wealth stock of their respective nations since then, asks Rebecca Simson?



Why history lessons are so threatening to those with power

If students are taught that the racism of the past is done and dusted, then it follows that there is nothing left to do – no policies left to enact. But if the playing field today is not equal – if the past still affects the present – then ignoring these legacies allows inequities to continue unchecked, writes Chana Teegeer.



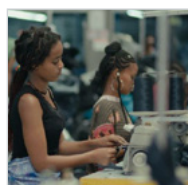
To counter the Far Right, elite capture and welfare cuts we must reinvigorate class consciousness

Rather than “working people” (Labour) or “white working class” (Reform UK), Faiza Shaheen argues that we need a politics that serves the whole working class – as well as an increasing number of middle-class families currently failed by the system we have in Britain today.



Ten facts about wealth inequality in the USA

The United States exhibits wider disparities of wealth between rich and poor than any other major developed nation. As we move into 2025, Sarah Anderson of the (US) Institute for Policy Studies summarises the state of wealth inequality in 10 key facts spanning the richest individuals, household wealth and the racial wealth divide.



Perspectives on global capitalism: an interview with Max Duncan, Director of “Made in Ethiopia”

When a massive Chinese industrial park lands in rural Ethiopia, a dusty farming town finds itself at the new frontier of globalisation. In this interview, Max Duncan talks the opportunities and ruptures that play out for three women in search of prosperity – and what the film has to say about capitalism, international development, and the dream of a better life...



Capitalism's gaping inequalities are also its main weakness – and the spur for resistance

Inequality is central to the workings of capitalism, writes Grace Blakeley, with the battle for power between workers and bosses a perennial feature of the system. Yet in recent decades, people seem to have accepted extreme inequality as a natural occurrence. How has this happened? And how can capitalism's exploitative ideology be overcome?

SPOTLIGHT ON VOICES OUTSIDE OF ACADEMIA



As global water runs dry, how can we make sure the poor don't get cut off?

Over two billion people lack access to safe drinking water – and the situation is set to become bleaker still due to climate change. How do we build equitable and collective approaches to global water security such that everyone's basic right to clean water can be upheld, ask Jo Trevor and Padmini Iyer of Oxfam?



Five things the G20 could do to help reduce inequality in South Africa

Three decades on from the end of Apartheid, South Africa remains one of the most unequal countries in the world. As the first African country to assume the presidency of the G20, Mlondi Mveli Mdluli sets out what the G20 could do to tackle inequality by fostering inclusive economic growth and creating opportunities at scale.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE AND IMPACT

The LSE International Inequalities Institute's (III) research programmes, core researchers, faculty associates and visiting fellows have connected with various non-academic audiences, research end-users and policymakers. Below are a selected number of examples given to highlight the III's knowledge exchange and impact (KEI) activities this academic year. Information on KEI activity for the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme is covered in the AFSEE section of the report.

SOUTHMOD – Simulating tax and benefit policies for development



Training course from the Ministry of Economy and Public Finance in La Paz, Bolivia

The SOUTHMOD⁴⁴ team has delivered targeted capacity-building training to key government institutions across Latin America, demonstrating direct knowledge exchange between academic research and policy implementation.

In September 2024, Dr H Xavier Jara conducted intensive training at Bolivia's Ministry of Economy and Public Finance on BOLMOD, the tax-benefit microsimulation model developed through the III's SOUTHMOD project.⁴⁵ The training engaged officials from multiple ministries and the National Statistical Office, culminating in discussions with Vice Minister Carlos David Guachalla Terrazas on tax-benefit reform simulations.

Building on this success, III researchers delivered specialised training to Ecuador's National Statistical Institute (INEC) in October 2024, focusing on intergenerational mobility and inequality of opportunity analysis using administrative data. This training operates under a formal Memorandum of Understanding between INEC and the III, establishing ongoing collaboration for evidence-based policy development.

44 International Inequalities Institute, 'SOUTHMOD – simulating tax and benefit policies for development'. Published on LSE.AC.UK

45 International Inequalities Institute, 'SOUTHMOD – simulating tax and benefit policies for development'. Published on LSE.AC.UK

Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review (LACIR) LACIR Supplement published



Photo credit: Maria Moore

"The most unequal region in the world" public event at LSE, 29 October 2024

The Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review⁴⁶ (LACIR) programme achieved a major milestone with the publication of its comprehensive Supplement in *Oxford Open Economics*.⁴⁷ This groundbreaking study represents a four-year collaborative effort involving 74 scholars who contributed 27 peer-reviewed articles examining why Latin America remains one of the world's two most unequal regions despite decades of economic growth. LACIR has translated this research into public engagement through a high-profile LSE event titled, "The most unequal region in the world: combatting inequality in Latin America"⁴⁸ during the ESRC Festival of Social Science. LACIR also released a 12-episode podcast series with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) entitled *Voices in Action: rethinking equality*⁴⁹ to reach a wider audience from the region.

46 LACIR, 'Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review'. Published on LACIR.LSE.AC.UK

47 LACIR, 'The Latin America and Caribbean Inequality Review (LACIR) Supplement in Oxford Open Economics'. Published on LACIR.LSE.AC.UK

48 International Inequalities Institute, 'The most unequal region in the world: combatting inequality in Latin America | LSE Event'. Published on YOUTUBE.COM

49 Spreaker, 'Voces en Acción'. Published on SPREAKER.COM

2nd III-LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference

Photo credit: Rubidium Beach via Unsplash



The UK LIS (Luxembourg Income Study) Satellite Office team at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) successfully co-hosted the 2nd III-LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference in Luxembourg⁵⁰ (27 to 28 February, 2025), bringing together leading scholars, researchers, and policymakers from around the world. Organised with LIS and co-sponsored by the University of Luxembourg and POST Luxembourg, the conference featured 79 research papers across 21 thematic sessions, demonstrating the III's pivotal role in advancing global inequality research.

The event showcased cutting-edge research on critical issues including gender disparities, intergenerational mobility, and policy interventions. Keynote presentations by Professor Nora Lustig, Tulane University, on measuring inequality among the wealthy and Professor Fabian Pfeffer, LMU Munich, on wealth redistribution provided crucial insights for policy design. A special session with Professor Branko Milanovic in conversation with Professors Francisco Ferreira and Janet Gornick about his latest book drew 150 participants.

⁵⁰ LIS Cross-National Data Center, '2025-2nd III/LIS Comparative Economic Inequality Conference 2025'. Published on LISDATACENTER.ORG

Collaboration with Joseph Rowntree Foundation



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"Why Wealth Inequality Matters" event at LSE on 13 May 2024

The III has collaborated⁵¹ with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) to examine the role of framing in the politics of wealth inequality. In autumn 2024, the III and JRF ran focus groups to find out what the UK public thinks about wealth and wealth inequality, with support from New Economy Organisers Network (NEON), Future Narratives Lab, and Fairness Foundation. The results from these focus groups and a subsequent survey experiment which tested the effects of different frames on public opinion were published by JRF in June 2025 in the report, "Talking about wealth inequality".⁵² Following on from this work, Dr Sarah Kerr produced a six-part podcast series funded by the JRF's Storyteller's Fund⁵³ using ideas in Dr Sarah Kerr's⁵⁴ book *Wealth, Poverty and Enduring Inequality: let's talk wealthier*⁵⁵ to explore some of the trends and issues in wealth inequality in the UK today. The aim of the podcast is to make a more accessible space for thinking and talking about wealth as a social problem, and specifically, for thinking about the effects of extreme private wealth ownership on social and environmental sustainability.

⁵¹ International Inequalities Institute, 'Changing the narrative on wealth inequality'. Published on LSE.AC.UK

⁵² JRF, 'Talking about wealth inequality'. Published on JRF.ORG.UK

⁵³ JRF, 'Storytellers'. Published on JRF.ORG.UK

⁵⁴ Dr Sarah Kerr, 'Research Fellow International Inequalities Institutes'. Published on LSE.AC.UK

⁵⁵ Sarah Kerr, 'Wealth, Poverty and Enduring Inequality. Let's Talk Wealthier'. Published on POLICY.BRISTOLUNIVERSITYPRESS.CO.UK

Politics of Inequality International Conference

Photo credit: Carl Goodwin



Politics of Inequality conference, 21-22 November 2024

The Politics of Inequality research programme officially ended in December 2024, becoming a research network. To mark the completion of the Politics of Inequality research programme, a two-day international conference was held in November 2024. This included presentations by researchers, practitioners, activists and AFSEE Fellows. Discussions focused on the lived experiences and impacts of inequalities and the forms of resistance and contestation. In addition to paper presentations, the conference also hosted a multi-media exhibition of photographs and videos and live podcast session led by AFSEE Senior Fellow, Barbara van Paassen, who produces the *People vs Inequality* podcast series.

Proposals for reforming Capital Gains Tax



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LSE III research associates Dr Andy Summers, Associate Professor of Law, LSE; Professor Arun Advani, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Warwick; and Andrew Lonsdale, Research Economist at CenTax, developed proposals for reforming Capital Gains Tax (CGT). It could raise £14 billion for the exchequer while simultaneously taking around 100,000 people out of CGT altogether. The authors propose a package of five reforms to boost CGT revenue and remove opportunities for avoidance including equalising the rate of CGT with income tax and introducing an investment allowance. Sixty-eight per cent of the additional revenue from the proposed reforms comes from the top 0.1 per cent richest taxpayers (based on their total income and gains over five years).

LSE Festival Exhibition: Visions for the Future



LSE Festival exhibition launch, June 2025

As part of LSE Festival: Visions for the Future, the Perceptions of Inequality research programme developed an interactive exhibition component that translated their research findings into accessible, visually engaging formats. This was an important opportunity for the programme to engage with the broader public about the importance of understanding inequality perceptions. The exhibition featured data visualisations showing how people across different countries and social groups misperceive inequality, interactive demonstrations allowing visitors to test their own perceptions against reality, and narrative presentations exploring how stories and personal experiences shape our understanding of economic disparities. One particularly noteworthy element was an interactive quiz where visitors could estimate income and wealth distributions in the UK and compare their estimates with actual data.

High-level UN appointments



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The ILL continues to shape global policy debates through high-level international appointments. ILL Director Professor Francisco H G Ferreira began his term on the United Nations University Council. The Council oversees strategic priorities for the UN's academic arm, which bridges research and policy across development, environment, peace, and governance. Meanwhile, Professor Naila Kabear was appointed to the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Expert Group on Beyond GDP, which is developing new metrics to complement or replace GDP in measuring sustainable and inclusive development. She also joined the UN Women's Leadership Network, which brings together influential figures committed to advancing gender equality worldwide.

GRANTS, WORKING PAPERS AND PUBLICATIONS

GRANTS

The LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) has successfully applied for a range of grants from external and internal funding to support projects across a range of topics and disciplines with total new funding of over £526,000 awarded for projects starting in 2024/25. Previously awarded grants contributed funding of £736,000 towards the III's activities during 2024/25.

NEW GRANTS AWARDED IN 2024/25:

Savage, Mike (Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice); **Scoping socio-economic privilege and inequality in Africa**; ISPF award; August 2024 to March 2025

Elliott, Jane (Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice); **UK Voices: new methods for understanding the impact of social change on individual lives**; ESRC – Transforming data collections infrastructure for social science application; October 2024 to June 2025

Kerr, Sarah and Vaughan, Michael (Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice); **Communicating anti-elitism toward wealth elites in an era of rising inequality**; LSE KEI large grant; August 2024 to January 2025

Kerr, Sarah (Wealth, Elites and Tax Justice); **Wealth, Poverty and Enduring Inequality: let's talk wealthy** podcast series; JRF StoryTellers award; February 2025 to September 2025

Fialho, Fabricio (Politics of Inequality); **Social media consumption and food-consumption in contemporary Kuwait: implications for public health policies**; LSE Middle East Centre award; February 2025 to February 2026



Photo credit: LSE in Pictures via Flickr

WORKING PAPER 144

Tax disincentives to formal employment in Latin America

Olivier Bargain, H Xavier Jara and David Rivera

To finance increased public spending and social programmes, Latin America's tax systems need to develop further. Yet taxation can reduce the tax base by discouraging formal employment. Evidence on the intensity of the problem is limited and tends to focus on specifically large reforms of the tax system. Conversely, and to improve external validity, we study whether routine changes in tax policies also alter labour market formalisation. Our approach is based on grouped-data estimations of formal employment responses to policy changes. We exploit tax variation across three countries (Bolivia, Ecuador and Colombia) and three periods (2008, 2014 to 2015, 2019). We use precise calculations of counterfactual tax burdens when moving from informal to formal jobs, ie, formalisation tax rates (FTRs). For most countries and pairs of years, FTRs have a negative and significant effect on formal employment, particularly when wages are held constant across periods – in order to extract the pure policy effect – and in a series of sensitivity checks.

WORKING PAPER 145

Biases in inequality of opportunity estimates: measures and solutions

Domenico Moramarco, Paolo Brunori and Pedro Salas Rojo

In this paper we discuss some limitations of using survey data to measure inequality of opportunity. First, we highlight a link between the two fundamental principles of the theory of equal opportunities – compensation and reward – and the concepts of power and confidence levels in hypothesis testing. This connection can be used to address, for example, whether a sample has sufficient observations to appropriately measure inequality of opportunity. Second, we propose a set of tools to normatively assess inequality of opportunity estimates in any type of partition. We apply our proposal to Conditional Inference Trees, a machine learning technique that has

received growing attention in the literature. Finally, guided by such tools, we suggest that standard tree-based partitions can be manipulated to reduce the risk of compensation and reward principles. Our methodological contribution is complemented with an application using a quasi-administrative sample of Italian PhD graduates. We find a substantial level of labour income inequality among two cohorts of PhD graduates (2012 and 2014), with a significant portion explained by circumstances beyond their control.

WORKING PAPER 146

Inherited wealth in post-Apartheid South Africa: new perspectives from probate records

Rebecca Simson and Mina Mahmoudzadeh

This chapter uses a novel data source – probate records – to develop an original account of the scale of the racial wealth divide in South Africa and its geographic dimensions. The results provide a sobering perspective on the scale of the racial wealth divide 30 years after the end of Apartheid. We estimate that 45 per cent of White South African adults own inheritable wealth of at least R.250,000, compared to 3 per cent of Black, 9 per cent of Coloured, and 23 per cent of Asian South Africans, and these gaps have narrowed only modestly between 2009 and 2019. We compare these results to estimates from survey data and discuss the nature of the probate source biases and interpretation. We also show that Black South Africans leaving estates are primarily dwellers in former Apartheid-era townships, and to a lesser extent, Homelands, with 42 per cent resident in townships and 17 per cent in Homelands at death, suggesting that this Black formal wealth-owning upper-middle class are predominantly the owners of assets acquired during the Apartheid-era. This points to the limited extent to which South Africa's Black upper and middle classes have bought into the historically White-owned asset stock. It also suggests that, much as in other parts of the world, the wealth distribution beyond the apex owes much to the structure of home ownership and geographically uneven house price appreciation.

WORKING PAPER 147**Inherited inequality, meritocracy, and the purpose of economic growth**

Francisco H G Ferreira and Paolo Brunori

This is a chapter about inequality of opportunity and a closely related concept: inherited inequality. It does five things. First, it reviews the dominant economic model of inequality of opportunity, including its two main uses: the proposal of social objective functions and the measurement of inequality of opportunity. Second, it dispenses with two epistemically and normatively demanding assumptions that underlie the model and defines the closely related concept of inherited inequality. Although in practical terms the two are very similar, the latter rests on simpler, less demanding – and thus more solid – normative foundations. Third, it reviews recent advances in the measurement of inequality of opportunity and inherited inequality, focusing on data-driven solutions to model specification challenges. These methods are illustrated using UK data from 2009 to 2019. Fourth, the chapter proposes amending the standard static social objective functions proposed thirty years ago, towards a dynamic version that is better suited to addressing the implications – and conditioning the nature – of economic growth. Finally, the chapter discusses the differences between inequality of opportunity and meritocracy, and their possible roles in a fair society and growing economy.

WORKING PAPER 148**Southern Germany's innovation clusters: regional growth coalitions in the knowledge economy**

Frieder Mitsch, Anke Hassel, and David Soskice

This paper examines Germany's distinctive path towards the knowledge economy, emphasising the role of regional innovation dynamics and governance, with a focus on Southern Germany's high-innovation clusters. Unlike other advanced economies that pivoted towards high-tech services, Germany has prioritised digital advancements within its manufacturing base, creating a model driven by smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0. We argue that regional growth coalitions, formed by firms, social partners, and local governments, foster institutional configurations supporting knowledge-based and innovation-focused competition. This regionalised governance has enabled Southern Germany to capitalise on Germany's innovation agenda, a success that other regions have struggled to replicate.

By analysing multi-scalar dynamics—interactions across regional, national, and EU levels—our study expands evolutionary economic geography (EEG) and political economy literature, challenging traditional, nation-centric frameworks. Our findings highlight that cohesive regional governance can enhance national and supranational innovation strategies, underscoring the importance of regional institutions in advancing and sustaining knowledge economy innovation.

WORKING PAPER 149**Evidence from the dead: new estimates of wealth inequality based on the distribution of estates**

Facundo Alvaredo, Yonatan Berman, Salvatore Morelli

This paper examines the estimation of the distribution of wealth using estates left at death. We establish formal conditions for implementing a simplified version of the classic estate multiplier method, relying solely on minimal information about estates and mortality. These conditions are empirically validated, and the simplified approach is applied to produce new long-run top wealth share series for Belgium, Japan, and South Africa, where estate data have previously been under-utilised. This method holds potential for expanding the range of countries and years in which wealth concentration can be estimated, especially where estate data exist but the standard method with heterogeneous multipliers is inapplicable.

WORKING PAPER 150**The network of injustice: a novel approach to inequality of opportunity**

Francesco Colcerasa, Lorenzo Giammei, Francesco Subioli

Restoring the theoretical foundation of John Roemer's conceptualisation of inequality of opportunity (IOp), we introduce an innovative empirical approach to measure unfair inequalities through Bayesian networks. This methodology enhances our understanding of income inequality through structural learning algorithms, generating an IOp index and, most importantly, shedding light on the underlying income formation process. We demonstrate how this proposal relates to established measurement methods through simulated data and provide an application to five European countries to illustrate the potential of Bayesian networks in the context of measuring inequality of opportunity.

WORKING PAPER 151

The promises and limits of transparency: anti-tax evasion and anti-money laundering efforts in financial centres

Victoria Gronwald

This working paper summarises the policy-relevant results of a research project focused on how Switzerland and the United Kingdom as the two largest wealth management centres in the world (Deloitte, 2024) have engaged with tax and financial transparency regulation. The research examines the political struggles around exchange of information (EOI) and beneficial ownership transparency regulation. It employs an in-depth qualitative content analysis of submissions to 37 public consultations (27 in Switzerland and 10 in the UK) between 2003 and 2023. The analysis focused on submissions by the most active interest groups, namely those responding to at least half of the consultations in a policy area (21 interest groups in Switzerland and 44 in the UK). This resulted in 255 submissions for Switzerland (187 on EOI and 68 on beneficial ownership transparency) and 127 for the UK (57 on EOI and 70 on beneficial ownership transparency). The interest groups are predominantly firms, professional and business associations from the banking, wealth management and legal industries and the wider financial and professional services sector, as well as a few civil society organisations.

WORKING PAPER 152

The inequality (or the growth) we measure: data gaps and the distribution of incomes

Facundo Alvaredo, Mauricio De Rosa, Ignacio Flores, Marc Morgan

Large gaps exist between income estimates from inequality studies and macroeconomic statistics, questioning our representation of flows and the relevance of economic growth. We take stock of these gaps by confronting multiple datasets in Latin America, finding that surveys account for around half of macroeconomic income over the past twenty years. Less than half of this gap is due to conceptual differences, the remainder coming from growing measurement issues, which mainly concern capital incomes. Top tails in administrative data and surveys present diverging averages, especially for non-wage incomes, and different shapes. We discuss implications for both inequality levels and trends.



Photo credit: Andy Wang via Unsplash

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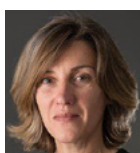
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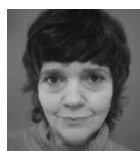
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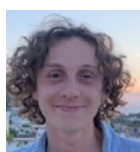
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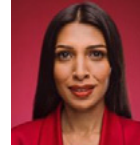
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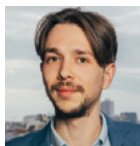
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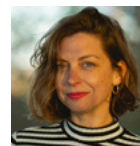
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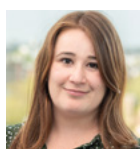
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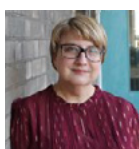
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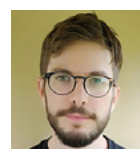
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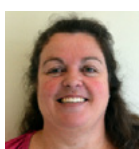
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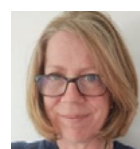
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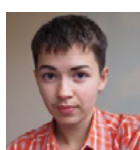
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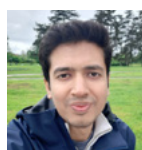
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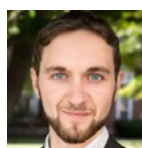
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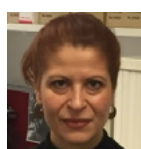
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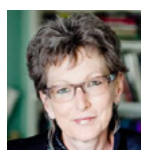
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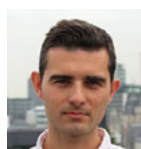
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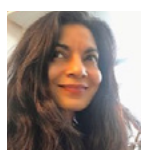
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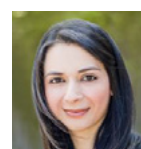
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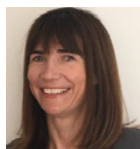
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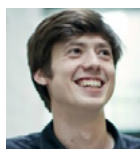
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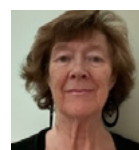
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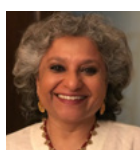
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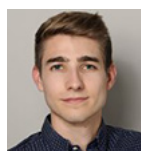
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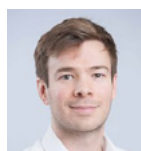
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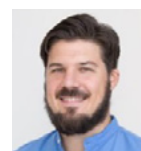
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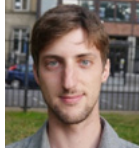
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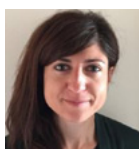
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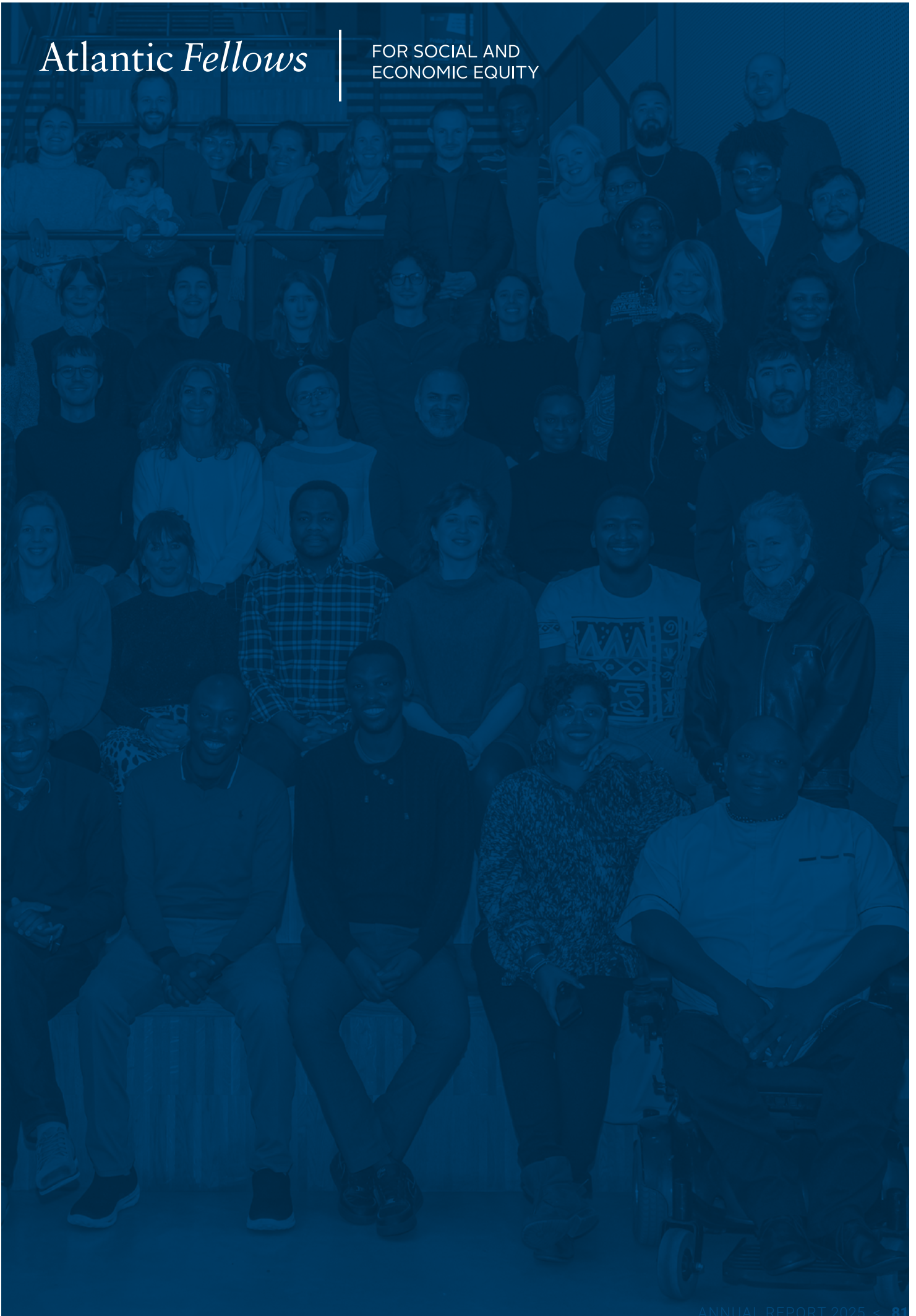
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FOR SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC EQUITY



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

We live in a world of uncertainty as new and ongoing conflicts, climate-related disasters, and growing inequalities of wealth continue to create turmoil, violence, and polarisation. In these uncertain times, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme continues its work to advance social and economic equity through bringing together research, education, and practice and building a community of changemakers who are committed to creating fairer, healthier, and more inclusive societies.



From our rigorous curriculum to our robust governance structures and innovative lifelong offerings, AFSEE continues to work with Fellows and colleagues across LSE, the Atlantic Fellows community, and beyond. We strive to remain an inclusive and welcoming space that fosters dialogue and critical thinking, and analysis.

In accordance with the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, AFSEE is working to

advance four key goals and pillars of action:

- 1 Fellowship Experience:** to design and deliver a rigorous, interconnected, and innovative fellowship programme.
- 2 Lifelong Engagement:** to provide robust lifelong engagement opportunities for Senior Fellows.
- 3 Fellow and Programme Impact:** to support and strengthen the impact of AFSEE Fellows and to promote the visibility and reputation of the AFSEE Programme.
- 4 Global Networks and Partnerships:** to strengthen the AFSEE Programme's global connections and impact.

To achieve these goals, we have developed robust governance structures and have a strong operational team. Our work is informed and guided by the AFSEE Programme Charter. Below is a summary of some of the key highlights from the 2024/25 academic year.

OUR GOVERNANCE

The AFSEE Governing Board is led by the Chair, Dr Claire Gordon, and I am grateful to Claire for her wise counsel and support. I thank all the members of the AFSEE Governing Board for their time, advice, and support. The AFSEE Senior Fellow representative on the Board, Mohammed Anwar Sadat Adam (2020-21 Cohort) continues in the role, and I thank Anwar for his insightful contributions and dedication.

AFSEE's work is also supported by the Programme Committee, a consultative body that provides knowledge and expertise around key areas including curriculum, programming, and outreach. The Programme Committee is comprised of core team members, our learning partners, and Senior Fellows. This year we were joined by Raquel Jesse from our partner organisation, the Center on International Cooperation at New York University and Selam Bedada from our sister programme, the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity. I would like to thank the outgoing Senior Fellow members of the 2024-25 Programme Committee for their hard work and service: Tracy Jooste (2017-18 Cohort) and Katy Rubin (2023-24 Cohort).

In November 2024, AFSEE hosted the in-person meeting of the Atlantic Institute Governing Board (AIGB). AIGB members met with AFSEE Board members and heard from four Senior Fellows about their leadership journeys. I thank Hobeth Martínez Carrillo (2019-20 Cohort), Irene Wakarindi (2020-21 Cohort), Ruby Hembrom (2021-22 Cohort) and Eko Octavianus (2023-24 Cohort) for coming to speak about their work and experience of being Senior Fellows.

afsee.atlanticfellows.lse.ac.uk

 Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity

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OUR PROGRAMME

The eighth cohort of AFSEE Fellows started their fellowship experience in September 2024. The active fellowship experience is at the heart of the AFSEE Programme. The cohesive set of four modules are part of the year-long curriculum connecting to and building on each other to provide Fellows with new knowledge, skills, and opportunities for community building. We deliver content that challenges and changes Fellows, is useful to them, and which provides opportunities for collaboration.

Alongside the four modules, AFSEE also organised inter-module webinars focusing on the following topics:

- **October 2024:** “How to write an effective blog post”, delivered by Dan Nixon, the LSE International Inequalities Institute’s (III) Blog Editor.
- **November 2024:** “Demystifying quantitative approaches”, delivered by Dr Fabricio Mendes-Fialho, AFSEE team member.
- **January 2025:** “Ethics” webinar, delivered by Dr George Kunnath, AFSEE Academic Lead.
- **March 2025:** “Inclusive ethnography and qualitative research”, delivered by Dr Branwen Spector, UCL Department of Anthropology.
- **May 2025:** “Ignorance and power”, delivered by Dr Sarah Kerr, III Research Fellow.

In March 2025, we completed the recruitment of our ninth cohort for which we received a record 975 applications. For the third year in a row, the AFSEE Ambassador Programme supported the outreach, and the ambassadors worked on identifying and communicating with



AIGB members front row: Elizabeth Kiss, Lysa John, Armine Ishkanian, Nicolette Naylor, and Chris Oechsli. Back row: Kevin Liverpool, Amina Evangelista Swanepoel, Roger Glass, and Kofi Appenteng.

contacts in their regions and hosted a series of informational webinars. The AFSEE Ambassadors were:

- Caribbean - Kevin Liverpool (2021-22 Cohort)
- Central Asia - Hamid Vashaghanifarhani (2022-23 Cohort)
- Central and East Africa - Naledi Maite (2022-23 Cohort)
- Central and South America - Rafael Barrio de Mendoza Zevallos (2021-22 Cohort)
- Europe - Renata Ćuk (2018-19 Cohort)
- Middle East and North Africa – Manar Alzrai (2023-24 Cohort)
- Oceania - Eko Octavianus (2023-24 Cohort)
- Southern Africa - Mavis Koogotsitse (2023-24 Cohort)
- Southeast Asia - James Aung (2022-23 Cohort)
- West Africa - Makmid Kamara (2021-22 Cohort)

I thank the ambassadors for their stellar efforts.

As our Senior Fellows community grows each year, we are investing more resources to support the development and implementation of lifelong offerings to Senior Fellows. Some key highlights from this strand of work this year have been the

completion of the first round of AFSEE Incubation Labs and the launch of the second round. In 2024, AFSEE also launched the second round of Atlantic Equity Challenge projects aimed at supporting collaborations that bring together our Senior Fellows, LSE researchers, and other colleagues to conduct solutions-oriented projects.

LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

On the staffing front, 2024/25 was a year of transitions. While we bid farewell to three members of staff: Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson (Policy Fellow); Julia Ryng (Programme Officer, Fellowship Experience); and Dr Fabricio Mendes Fialho (Research Fellow), we also welcomed Hala Haidar (Communications and Marketing Officer); Saara Honkanen (Programme Officer, Fellowship Experience); and Dr Giannis Efthymiou (Assistant Professorial Research Fellow in Innovative Pedagogy). I thank Aygen, Fabricio, and Julia for their work and wish them well in the next chapters of their career journeys.

Amidst the turmoil and uncertainty of the current state of the world, maintaining hope is not easy. And yet, despite the many adversities and obstacles facing them, AFSEE Fellows both individually and collectively continue to work towards creating a better future of peace, dignity, and equality for all.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE GOVERNING BOARD



Over the past academic year, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme, its committed team of staff, its cohort of Current Fellows, and its growing community of Senior Fellows have once again demonstrated the special synergies that AFSEE makes possible. Given the challenging global, national, and local times we are currently living through, this could not be more important.

The Governing Board met twice this year: first online in January, then in-person at LSE in June. We welcomed three new Board members: Dr Irene Guijt, former Head of Evidence and Strategic Learning at Oxfam Great Britain; Professor Jenny Pearce, Visiting Professor at the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III); Professor Liz Stokoe from LSE's Psychological and Behavioural Science Department. The poetic and practical combination of their work on Peace, Hope, and Impact aptly embody the values of our AFSEE community, and it is a privilege to welcome these new members to the Board.

I am grateful for the commitment of the Governing Board members in

ensuring that AFSEE is progressing actively and ambitiously in its four key strategic priorities. We value the dynamic and inventive programming developments in all these different areas while offering appropriate challenge. This year we have also been having probing discussions about impact measurement and the duration of the programme, originally set up with funding for 20 years of programming.

It is a great honour for me to be Chair of the Board, to step away from my day job as Director of LSE's Eden Centre for Education Enhancement and enter a different space at LSE. This space shares some similar values, modelling the possibilities of the classroom as "the most radical space of possibility" (bell hooks) and taking this learning, experience, and expertise further into changemaking through AFSEE's work to reduce social and economic inequities.

I had the opportunity to attend the opening session of Module 3 on Challenging and Transforming Inequality. I was struck by the respect, understanding, and solidarity that has developed among this year's cohort. I was also struck by the interaction between the personal and the political, the

local and the global in the contexts in which the Fellows are living, striving for change, and understanding at the present time.

I am excited about the recent appointment of Dr Giannis Efthymiou as AFSEE Assistant Professorial Research Fellow to work on innovative pedagogy. He will partner with colleagues across LSE to develop our understanding of global pedagogic practice. We plan to collaborate on developing practical resources for AFSEE and beyond, supporting inclusive and empowering educational practices.

I would like to thank Armine Ishkanian; under her committed, values-led, tireless leadership, AFSEE has become both more inward-facing, embedding itself ever more strongly at LSE, and more outward-looking, building connections across other fellowship programmes and communities.

Finally, I would like to thank LSE for its commitment to AFSEE over the past nine years and providing a fertile home for both its educational and research aspirations.

Dr Claire Gordon
Chair, AFSEE Governing Board



Claire Gordon, Chair of the AFSEE Governing Board

WHO WE ARE

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme, based at LSE International Inequalities Institute (III), is building a catalytic, values-led global community of people who are committed to using collective leadership to work towards social and economic justice for all. By drawing on the insights of academic research, innovative social change strategies, and the Fellows' experience and expertise, the AFSEE Programme empowers a new generation of changemakers, including policymakers, activists, researchers, practitioners and campaigners, to work together across disciplines, backgrounds and borders.

Established with a landmark gift from The Atlantic Philanthropies in 2016, over 20 years, the AFSEE Programme will support more than 400 Fellows from all over the world. Their active fellowship year centres on four key learning modules designed to support the Fellows' growth and development as leaders of social change. Residential Fellows undertake an MSc in Inequalities and Social Science at

LSE and participate in the AFSEE Modules, while Non-Residential Fellows remain in their home and professional environments and travel to attend the modules while carrying out project work. From the 2024/25 academic year onwards, Non-Residential Fellows will be awarded a Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Economic Equity upon successful completion of the active fellowship year.

AFSEE is one of seven Atlantic Fellow Programmes, which together create a global community to advance fairer, healthier and more inclusive societies. After finishing their active fellowship year, all Atlantic Fellows become part of a connected community of changemakers and receive ongoing support from the Atlantic Institute throughout their careers with opportunities to meet, learn from one another and connect with the global community. Based in Oxford at Rhodes Trust, the Atlantic Institute amplifies the impact of the Atlantic Fellows network and helps promote a lifelong community among Fellows. The Atlantic Philanthropies has invested over US\$600 million to support the work of this global network of thousands of Atlantic Fellows over the next two decades and beyond.

OUR VALUES

Fairness

Courage

Kindness

Curiosity

Commitment

IMPACT AND REACH

IMPACT STORIES

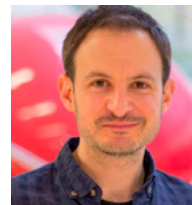
Leanne Sajor (2019-20 Cohort)

Leanne serves as the Director of the Funders for a Just Economy program at the Neighborhood Funders Group. She organises funders toward strategic alignment with the labour movement and the worker justice movement to advance economic justice and address racial capitalism in the United States. She states that as progressive funders, "We must reimagine our role—not just as grant-makers, but as strategic partners in reducing harm, fostering repair, and redistributing power for systemic transformation."



Joey Hasson (2017-18 Cohort)

Over the past two years, with support from the Atlantic Institute, Joey has been working with Tekano Fellow Tracey Malawana on a new project to tackle period poverty in South Africa, called I_Menstruate. I_Menstruate uses a movement-building approach, engaging young women and girls in South Africa's poorest schools to be advocates and agents of change in their schools and communities. After conducting research with 540 school youth in South Africa, they led a national training in June 2024, with 21 young women leaders and their teachers.



Máximo Jaramillo-Molina (2020-21 Cohort)

Máximo recently published a book with Penguin Press called *Pobres Porque Quieren: mitos de la desigualdad y la meritocracia* (*Poor Because They Want to Be: myths of inequality and meritocracy*). Promoting this book has been an incredibly enriching experience for him as it has allowed him to discuss the myths of inequality and meritocracy in many cities across Mexico. He believes the most beautiful part of these events has been witnessing people's expressions when they reach a key moment of reflection, "If you've been told that a supposed personal failure is entirely your fault... well, that's a lie."



Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero (2021-22 Cohort)

Kruskaya has supported women working on digital platforms in forming a Latin American network of women trade unionists in the platform economy since last year. Kruskaya is focused on strengthening the coalition of digital platform workers, advancing the gender agenda designed by Latin American women workers to be included in the International Labour Organization (ILO) debates in Geneva, as well as working creatively to position these issues in the public agenda.



Kripa Basnyat (2018-19 Cohort)

Kripa is currently working in the joint programme Empowered Women Prosperous Nepal, an initiative focused on addressing gender inequalities in Nepal through gender transformative approaches. As part of women's economic empowerment, the Care Working Group, institutionalised under the leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC), plays a key role in Nepal's development. A key takeaway from this work for her is that "care" is a multisectoral issue that demands a coordinated, multi-stakeholder approach and whole of society approach.



Oabona Sepora (2020-21 Cohort)

Oabona co-authored a chapter titled, "Life transforming intercultural pastoral care and counseling with transgender and intersex communities in Botswana", which was recently published in *The Palgrave Handbook of Violence in Africa*. The research conducted for the chapter reveals that there are few violence prevention programmes and initiatives from government, civil society, and non-governmental organisations aimed at alleviating pain and suffering among transgender and intersex communities in Botswana. It also offers recommendations on how to improve the situation.



AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS



Stephanie Akinwoya (2022-23 Cohort) was granted the Education Development Trust's Tim Morris Award to support her PhD research.



Hobeth Martínez Carrillo (2019-20 Cohort) was awarded the LSE Class Teacher Award in recognition of his contribution to teaching at the Department of Sociology at LSE.



Alon-Lee Green (2019-20 Cohort) was included in the TIME100 Next 2024 list as an emerging leader who is shaping the future and defining the next generation of leadership. He was also featured on the *Prospect Magazine's* Top Thinkers for 2024 – list under the category of "Freedom".



Kitti Baracsi (2020-21 Cohort) and her project, "Periferias dibujadas" ("Drawn peripheries") was selected for Amnesty International's Conversations with Reports – collaboration, in which, artists and activists are invited to respond to the "Under protected and over restricted: the state of the right to protest in 21 European countries" report.



Katy Rubin's (2023-24 Cohort) project, "The People Act" was shortlisted by the Sheila McKechnie Foundation for the National Campaigner Awards, in the Creative Changemakers category.

AFSEE FELLOWS



132
FELLOWS



58
COUNTRIES

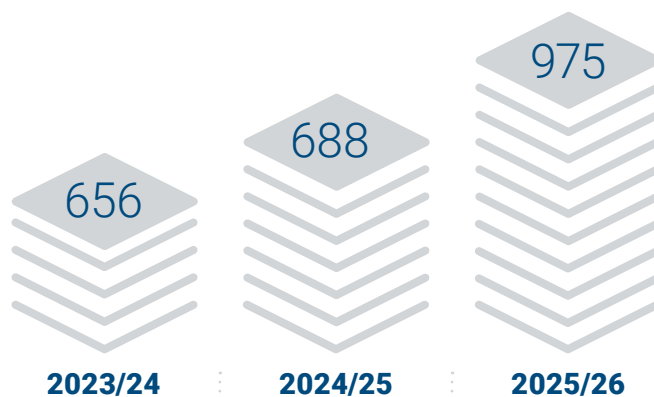


8
COHORTS

MOST POPULAR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE

1. Activism and movement building
2. Social and economic rights
3. Human rights
4. Public policy and governance
5. Climate justice and sustainability
6. Youth and education
7. Gender equity

AFSEE APPLICATIONS



OF ALL APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED IN 2025 WERE
FROM APPLICANTS BASED
IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH.

APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED FROM
114 COUNTRIES
FOR THE 2025/26
INTAKE.



MY FELLOWSHIP YEAR: A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE?

When I boarded a plane, heading to London and the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme, the weight of Gaza came with me. I had no idea that, within just a month, the familiar struggle, the resilience, and the life I had known would be engulfed in a new war. I'd left my family, friends, and home to pursue a fellowship on social and economic equity—a cause I had long cherished as an educator in Gaza. Now, in the wake of the war, my departure seemed nothing short of miraculous. Yet, as the days passed and the conflict deepened, I felt a whirlwind of gratitude, guilt, and a gnawing sense of displacement, writes Manar Alzrai (2023-24 Cohort).

NAVIGATING DISPLACEMENT AND PURPOSE

Initially, it felt like fate. For years, I had been deeply involved in advocating for equitable education and human rights in Gaza, but opportunities like the AFSEE Fellowship still felt almost unattainable. When the acceptance letter came, it represented more than just a professional opportunity; it felt like an invitation to amplify Gaza's voice on a global stage. Yet, in those first weeks, as the war unfolded, this dream began to feel strange, tinged with a sense of guilt. I had been granted a chance to escape, but why me when so many others had no such option? What made me the exception when the people I loved, colleagues, students, family—were still bound to the chaos of war?

These questions haunted me. Each call back home carried a mix of relief and sorrow. My loved ones would assure me that everything would be okay, that I was safe and "that's what mattered." But as I hung up each call, the detachment I felt was immense. Physically, I was thousands of miles away, sitting in classrooms where we discussed inequality issues and policies for economic and social equity. Mentally, I was in Gaza with the very

people I'd left behind, experiencing every bomb, every loss, and every disruption as though I were still there. It's a paradox I continue to carry: the privilege of leaving with the burden of watching from afar.

As time passed, I began to question the nature of this experience. Surely, it must have been a blessing, given that I was safe and able to channel my energy into the fellowship and my studies. But there were moments when it felt like a curse.

My own privilege—of safety, of choice—became a barrier that set me apart from the daily struggles of those back home. The feeling of helplessness ate away at me. No matter what help I managed to provide, it never felt like enough. I couldn't stop the bombs from killing my loved ones.

TRANSFORMING PAIN INTO ADVOCACY

However, the fellowship became a turning point. I realised that by being at The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and by being part of the global AFSEE Community, I had a responsibility to represent Gaza's voice, experiences, and aspirations. Every discussion on inequality, every policy review, and every presentation became an opportunity to channel the urgency of Gaza's plight into a broader framework. I spoke of Gaza in ways I never had before, not simply as a place of conflict but as a space of resilience, dignity, and unyielding strength.



Manar Alzrai

One of the most transformative moments during my fellowship was realising how Gaza's story resonates far beyond its borders. In a policy discussion on inequality, I spoke about the impact of settler colonialism and systemic injustices on education in Gaza—how classrooms struggle to function under the weight of conflict, deprivation, and erasure. The room fell silent, not out of pity but out of recognition. Peers from different parts of the world began drawing connections to their own struggles—be it educational inequities in rural India or systemic racism in the US. This shared understanding reinforced a powerful truth: Gaza's resilience is not just a local story but a universal symbol of dignity and determination. Through these discussions, I discovered the power of advocacy and the critical importance of making Gaza's voice a central part of global dialogues on justice.

BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE AND SOLIDARITY

The MSc in Inequalities and Social Science programme and the AFSEE Fellowship offered invaluable support for my mission. Academic modules on social inequality and policy analysis deepened my understanding of systemic injustices and helped frame Palestine's struggles within a global context. AFSEE workshops provided leadership and advocacy tools that I applied to my work. The guidance from programme directors, combined with the solidarity of Fellows from around the world, created a network of shared purpose and mutual learning. Conversations with peers revealed common threads across struggles, reaffirming Palestine's place in the global fight for equity and justice.

The wider LSE community enriched this journey further. Faculty members encouraged critical thinking, pushing me to explore new dimensions of inequality, while the extensive resources available at LSE allowed me to deepen my understanding of the historical and

structural forces shaping Palestine's struggles. Informal exchanges with students broadened my perspectives and offered a space for dialogue and collaboration. Together, these experiences transformed my fellowship into an act of advocacy, where every essay and presentation became a declaration that Palestine is not only a site of despair but also a symbol of hope, resilience, and potential for change.

As my active fellowship year concluded, I came to realise that my departure was neither a blessing nor a curse; it was, simply put, a circumstance. This journey has been a chapter in my story, one that joins countless others from Gaza who continue to hope, resist, and build a future amid uncertainty. In the end, I carry Gaza with me—not as a miracle or a burden but as the essence of who I am and why I do what I do. As I walk this path, I am reminded that while I may be miles away, my heart remains in Gaza, and my purpose—to advocate for equity, justice, and dignity—continues to beat in rhythm with those who are still there.



The guidance from programme directors, combined with the solidarity of Fellows from around the world, created a network of shared purpose and mutual learning.”

AFSEE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

EDUCATIONAL VISION AND PEDAGOGY

The educational vision of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme is guided by a commitment to research-rich learning, experience-reflection dialogue, and fostering connections among changemakers through professional practice at regional and global levels. This vision, inspired by the work of the Brazilian educationist Paulo Freire, assigns primacy to dialogue as its pedagogic centre. Dialogues between theory and practice, action and reflection, and academics and practitioners serve as an effective paradigm for strengthening the work for social change. AFSEE draws on Fellows' expertise and experience in activism, policy, and government to create global solidarity, collective knowledge, and influence how inequality and equity are understood in academic and professional fields.

AFSEE's educational vision is implemented through a carefully crafted pedagogy and learning curve that include intensive academic modules, skills training sessions, community-building activities and inter-modular webinars. The academic modules create spaces for Fellows to familiarise and critically engage with the enduring and emerging debates in theory and method for examining inequalities as well as reflect on their own practice for creating a more socially and economically equitable world. The four academic modules of the programme reflect these priorities. Module 1 (in-person), **Foundations of Social and Economic Inequalities**, focuses on the histories and legacies of inequalities and the various models for measuring inequalities. Module 2 (online), **Policy for Equity**, explores



Sasha Jattansingh (2024-25 Cohort) and Dr Annalena Oppel (AFSEE Research Fellow) at Module 4 in July 2025.

Photo Credit: Catarina Heeckt

how policy can be both a tool for maintaining the status quo and a means of creating equity across all areas of social and economic inequalities. Module 3 (in-person), **Challenging and Transforming Inequality**, examines the role of grassroots initiatives, NGOs, civil society organisations, and social movements in challenging and changing structures of inequalities. Module 4 (in-person), focuses on a specific theme that draws on current global events. The theme changes annually. In 2025, reflecting on the rise of authoritarian regimes and democratic backsliding in several countries, this module engages with the theme Crisis of Democracy.

UPDATING THE CURRICULUM TO ENGAGE WITH THE CHANGING AND EMERGING NEW INEQUALITIES

As in the previous years, this year saw the continuation of the existing three main modules, with a few new additions to throw light on the changing and emerging discourses around inequality. Module 1 saw three changes: 1) Dr Gabriela Cabana-Alvear led a session on

anti-colonial de-growth focusing on the resistance struggles and environmental movements in the Global South; 2) Dr Sarah Kerr and Dr Michael Vaughan led a joint session that examined the role of “framing and narratives” in understanding wealth inequalities; and 3) Ruby Hembrom, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2021-22 Cohort), delivered a lecture on feminist economics from the perspective of Adivasi women in India. Crystal Simeoni (2019-20 Cohort), Liz Nelson (2019-20 Cohort), and Carlos Brown Solà (2022-23 Cohort) spoke at the Senior Fellow Roundtable in Module 1.

Module 2 included a new session led by Senior Fellows Renata Ćuk (2018-19 Cohort) and Rose Longhurst (2017-18 Cohort) on, “Funding for social change” drawing on their extensive experience in the world of philanthropy. We were also delighted to welcome back Sebastián Ignacio Muñoz Pérez (2022-23 Cohort), and Caroline Kioko (2021-22 Cohort) who presented their work during the Senior Fellows' Roundtable during Module 2.

Several changes were made to Module 3: 1) Mark Heywood delivered a lecture on rethinking activism; 2) Dr



Senior Fellows' roundtable, George, Barbara van Paassen (2020-21 Cohort) and Salman Usmani (2022-23 Cohort) with Naledi Maite (2022-23 Cohort) on the screen

Irene Guijt led a session on hope and civil society; 3) Dr Duncan Green and Dr Tom Kirk gave a joint lecture on influencing strategies for achieving the desired impact; and 4) for the first time, we hosted a two-day case study field trip to Scotland (see details on the case study trip below).

MODULE 4: CRISIS OF DEMOCRACY

The thematic module for this year, **Crisis of Democracy**, was chosen based on the majority vote by the Current Fellows (2024-25 Cohort) with the objective of reflecting on the shrinking democratic space in several countries across the globe. This module explored the current crisis of democracy, manifested in the rise of authoritarian regimes, populist leadership, declining trust in democratic institutions, increasing inequalities and heightened levels of misinformation and hate speech. This module provided space for collective reflection on the future of democracy. The speakers on this module included Professor Jonathan Hopkin who presented theoretical reflections on the crisis of democracy, a session on narratives led by Raquel Jesse and Dr Faiza Shaheen, a presentation by AFSEE Senior Fellow

Pedro Telles (2018-19 Cohort) on his work on the challenges facing democracy globally, and an interactive session on the use of arts and crafts, specifically embroidery, as a form of political resistance and dissent that was co-led by Dr Tanya Harmer and Gloria Miqueles. This module also included a Senior Fellow Roundtable led by Barbara van Paassen (2020-21 Cohort), Salman Usmani (2022-23 Cohort), and Naledi Maite (2022-23 Cohort).

SENIOR FELLOWS' GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE DELIVERY AND CO-CURATION OF MODULES

This year involved greater participation of Senior Fellows in the module delivery. In addition to the usual Senior Fellow Roundtables that are held in each module, this year we welcomed back many Senior Fellows to give presentations on their work: Ruby Hembrom (2021-22 Cohort), Renata Ćuk (2018-19 Cohort), Rose Longhurst (2017-18 Cohort), and Pedro Telles (2018-19 Cohort).

This year, for the first time, we had a case study field trip to Scotland as part of an AFSEE module. The module was co-curated by three

AFSEE Fellows based in Scotland, namely Jen Ang (2024-25 Cohort), Clare MacGillivray (2021-22 Cohort) and Jack Nissan (2017-18 Cohort). This case study field trip focused on: 1) Scotland's complex relationship with histories of imperialism, colonialism, and slavery; 2) local, regional, national, and global narratives about Scotland, and the narratives prevalent in Scotland about Scottish identity; 3) examples of activism on the ground such as human rights defenders working in the Scottish context on housing and migrant rights; and 4) a session led by Jack Nissan which included the Tinderbox Collective and members of the Samata Collective that focused on the role of music and art in advancing equity.

POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME (PG CERT)

The current academic year (2024/25) witnessed the enrolment of the Non-Residential Fellows on the Postgraduate Certificate Programme at LSE for the first time. This marked the approval of the application by the AFSEE Programme in May 2023 to accredit the Non-Residential stream by the LSE's Executive MSc committee. Non-Residential Fellows who complete all the required elements of the AFSEE Programme and pass their Independent Project will be awarded the Postgraduate Certificate in Social and Economic Equity (PG Cert SEE) with the value of two transferrable units. A postgraduate certificate is an internationally recognised academic certificate regulated by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education. The Postgraduate Certificate will offer academic recognition for the Non-Residential Fellows' work and learnings on the programme.

LIFELONG FELLOWSHIP

THE AFSEE SENIOR FELLOWS COMMUNITY

The Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme is a lifelong fellowship, which means that being an AFSEE Fellow does not end when the initial fellowship year ends. A key strategic objective for AFSEE is to create lifelong engagement opportunities and offerings to amplify the impact of the fellowship over time, thereby allowing Fellows to continue to shape, grow, and scale up their social change work. These opportunities and offerings become increasingly more important as our Senior Fellows community grows. We now have over 100 Senior Fellows from across seven cohorts and over 50 countries.

Fellows from the 2023-24 Cohort joined the Senior Fellows community this academic year. As part of their onboarding to Senior Fellowship, the AFSEE team hosted two bespoke workshops focusing on transitions, one per each of the respective tracks, and a series of one-to-one conversations. We also worked with the Atlantic Institute to provide a series of online induction sessions for the graduating Fellows to enhance their integration into the wider Atlantic Fellows community.

One of the biggest challenges for our lifelong engagement strategy continues to be finding ways to bring together such a global community of Fellows. The need to reduce our carbon footprint has made it even more vitally important for us to find ways to connect virtually in order to facilitate an ever-growing and deepening community connection. The AFSEE Town Halls, held online twice per year, are a key vehicle for bolstering cross-cohort community



AFSEE Senior Fellows Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique (2022-23 Cohort), Myriam Hernández Vazquez (2021-22 Cohort), Rosario Fassina (2022-23 Cohort), and AFSEE Executive Director Armine Ishkanian smiling in front of Myriam's "GAWI" display at the LSE Festival exhibition launch reception in June 2025.

building amongst the Fellows. This academic year, we slightly tweaked the structure of the Town Halls; in addition to sharing key updates from the AFSEE Programme, we now dedicate a large portion of the Town Hall for an open discussion on a topic relevant to Fellows. For the Town Hall held in June 2025, we, for example, invited reflections on responding, reacting, and reimagining in light of shifts in funding and philanthropy spaces.

As we are aware that each cohort has its unique bonds based on shared experiences and memories, we also continue to create spaces for individual cohorts to come together and build on those bonds through the AFSEE Cohort Reunions. This academic year, the six separate virtual cohort reunion events were held in April 2025 and brought together 35 per cent of all our Senior Fellows.

ENHANCING COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR FELLOWS TO DISSEMINATE THEIR WORK

During the 2024/25 academic year, many of the offerings and opportunities for Senior Fellows have focused on improving the dissemination of Fellows' work, either by enhancing Fellows' communication skills or by creating bespoke opportunities for Fellows to share their knowledge and experiences.

- In November 2024, AFSEE co-hosted a Professional Skills Development webinar on, "How to write a policy memo" with colleagues, Raquel Jesse and Symphony Chu, from our partners at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC). Later we then launched a call for Senior Fellows to submit policy memo abstracts for the Inequality Solutions

portal²³, which is a one-stop public resource of applied well-researched policies focusing on reducing inequality.

- In February 2025, we announced the call for the second round of submissions for the AcPrac Case Studies and Reflection Pieces initiative, which is a part of the “Exploring the potential of academic-practitioner collaborations for social change”²⁴ project. For this call, we invited Fellows to share their experiences and reflections on academic-practitioner collaborations in an academic format or through a creative format of their choice. We commissioned 12 Fellows in this second round.
- In May 2025, AFSEE co-hosted a three-day writing retreat in Cape Town with the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance as part of our joint “Rethinking activism in Africa: enhancing civic leadership in a time of uncertainty and transition” project. The retreat, which was co-curated with partners from the University of Cape Town (UCT) (Mark Heywood and Penny Parenzee) brought together seven AFSEE Fellows and seven Fellows from the wider Atlantic Fellows community to discuss their contributions to the book of essays expected to be published in late 2025.
- In July 2025, we hosted the inaugural AFSEE Residential Creative Communications

programme at the Hawkwood Centre for Future Thinking in Stroud, England. The objective of the specially curated weeklong residential was to offer Senior Fellows an opportunity to learn more about creative communications and storytelling.

STRENGTHENING KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE FOR AFSEE SENIOR FELLOWS

At AFSEE, knowledge exchange is a dynamic and fluid process, which incorporates distinct forms of knowledge from multiple sources, especially those which are not always seen as bearers of knowledge. To amplify Senior Fellows’ knowledge exchange, in March 2025, we launched two Knowledge Exchange Funds which have been added to AFSEE’s extensive funding support streams for Senior Fellows which already offer support for accessing technical equipment, connectivity, hardship, professional development, and participation.

The AFSEE Knowledge Exchange Fund for Community Engagement is designed to encourage Senior Fellows to develop and implement activities that directly engage local communities and promote innovative, collaborative, non-extractive, and mutually beneficial interactions that translate AFSEE values into action and co-create solutions for a more equitable and just society.

The AFSEE Knowledge Exchange Fund for Wider Impact is designed to support the dissemination of

Senior Fellows’ research and expertise with wider audiences. This could include sharing academic knowledge with non-academic audiences but also sharing practitioner-based knowledge and expertise with people who don’t usually have access to it.

As part of our knowledge exchange activities, we collaborated with AFSEE Senior Fellow Myriam Hernández Vazquez (2021-22 Cohort) to showcase her research at the LSE Festival 2025 Visions for the Future²⁵ exhibition. The display showcased information about GAWI²⁶, an award-winning virtual reality dream experience co-created by Myriam and the Rarámuri, an indigenous community of northern Mexico, celebrating the community’s indigenous ecological wisdom on taking care of Mother Earth. As part of the exhibition display, visitors were able to experience GAWI through virtual reality (VR) headsets. During the LSE Festival week, AFSEE also organised an interactive workshop led by Myriam for LSE students and members of the AFSEE community on using immersive storytelling for social and climate justice. Katy Rubin (2023-24 Cohort) also led an interactive introduction to Legislative Theatre with Samra Said during the LSE Festival. The workshop was followed by a panel discussion with Dr Miqdad Asaria and Dr Shabna Begum.

23 Pathfinders, *Practical Policies for Change*. Published on SDG16.PLUS.

24 AFSEE, *Exploring the Potential of Academic-Practitioner Collaborations for Social Change*. Published on AFSEE.ATLANTICFELLOWS.LSE.AC.UK.

25 LSE, *Visions for the Future: LSE Festival Exhibition*. Published on LSE.AC.UK.

26 GAWI, *GAWI: Un sueño ancestral Rarámuri sobre el cuidado de la Madre Tierra*. Published on GAWI.MX.COM

EVENTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC LECTURES

Depletion: the human costs of caring

Co-hosted by the Department of Gender Studies
Wednesday 2 October 2024. In-person and online public event.

This event launched Professor Shirin Rai's book *Depletion*, which explores the human costs of caring and shows how depletion is both a contributing factor and an outcome of economic, environmental, health and social crises.

Speakers: Professor Juanita Elias, Professor of International Political Economy, University of Warwick; Professor Diane Elson, Emeritus Professor, University of Essex; Dr Ania Plomien, Associate Professor in Gender and Social Science, LSE; Professor Shirin M Rai, Distinguished Research Professor, SOAS; Dr Christopher Choong Weng Wai, AFSEE Fellow (2020-21 Cohort)

Chair: Professor Sumi Madhok, Professor of Political Theory and Gender Studies, LSE

Power to the people

Co-hosted by the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III)

Monday 27 January 2025. In-person and online public event.

In this event, Danny Sriskandarajah discussed his new book *Power to the People*. Drawing on his extensive experience in leading civil society organisations around the globe, he sets out his radical blueprint for change.

Speaker: Danny Sriskandarajah, Chief Executive, New Economics Foundation and Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III

Discussants: Lysa John, Executive Director, Atlantic Institute; Jo Swinson, Director of Partners for a New Economy (P4NE) and Visiting Professor, Cranfield University

Chair: Professor Armine Ishkanian, AFSEE Executive Director and Professor of Social Policy, LSE

Democracy and the right to protest in the UK

Co-hosted by the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III)

Monday 24 March 2025. In-person and online public event.

This panel discussed why protests matter, what the shrinking of democratic space means for social movements and activists, and what can be done to protect freedom of speech and the right to protest.

Speakers: Pascale Frazer-Carroll, AFSEE Fellow (2023-24 Cohort); Dr Richard Martin, Assistant Professor of Law, LSE; Sam Nadel, PhD Candidate in Social Policy, LSE and Director of the Social Change Lab

Chair: Dr George Kunnath, Associate Professor (Education) and Academic Lead, AFSEE



Left to right: Lysa John, Jo Swinson, Danny Sriskandarajah, and Armine Ishkanian

Photo Credit: Maria Moore

Building community in polarised times

Co-hosted by Facing History & Ourselves UK and the LSE Faith Centre

Thursday 22 May 2025. In-person public event.

The panel discussion looked at examples of how we can create space for healthy dialogue, build empathy, and foster a greater sense of shared humanity both within communities and across them.

Speakers: Professor James Walters, Director, LSE Faith Centre and Professor in Practice, Department of International Relations, LSE; Mari Williams, Deputy Headteacher and Facing History Teacher Leader; Joey Hasson, AFSEE Fellow (2017-18 Cohort)

Chair: Dr Maël Lavenaire, Research Fellow in Racial Inequality, AFSEE/LSE III

LSE Festival: Watch, act, vote: legislative theatre for health and climate justice

Co-hosted by the LSE Global Health Initiative and Department of Health Policy

Thursday 19 June 2025. In-person public event.

This event offered an interactive introduction to the Legislative Theatre methodology, for practitioners, activists, and policymakers, and anyone seeking new ways to inject accessibility, creativity and joyfulness into decision-making and systems change.

Speakers: Katy Rubin, AFSEE Fellow (2023-24 Cohort); Samra Said, Co-Director, Arts & Homelessness International; Dr Shabna Begum, CEO, the Runnymede Trust

Chair: Dr Miqdad Asaria, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy, LSE



Photo Credit: Matteo Merapace

Katy Rubin (2023-24 Cohort), Dr Miqdad Asaria, Dr Shabna Begum, and Samra Said at an LSE Festival event

Poor because they want to be: myths of inequality and meritocracy

Thursday 3 July 2025. In-person and online public event.

In this event, Máximo discussed his new book *Pobres Porque Quieren: mitos de la desigualdad y la meritocracia* (*Poor Because They Want To Be: myths of inequality and meritocracy*).

Speakers: Dr Máximo E Jaramillo-Molina, AFSEE Fellow (2020-21 Cohort) and Associate Professor, the Centre for Social Sciences and Humanities (CUCSH), University of Guadalajara; Professor Jenny Pearce, Visiting Professor, LSE III

Chair: Professor Armine Ishkanian, AFSEE Executive Director and Professor of Social Policy, LSE

SPONSORED EVENTS

Oxfam Water Security Workshop

Convening key stakeholders with a shared focus on achieving water security, the conference sought to find strategic alignment that will lead to a collaborative and sustainable approach for new programming and funding. The one-day event held in October 2024 facilitated discussion to explore challenges, opportunities and identify strategic alignments for ambitious collective action. Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Senior Fellow Najma Mohamed (2023-24 Cohort) participated in the workshop.

Politics of Inequality Conference

The AFSEE/LSE International Inequalities Institute (III) research programme, Politics of Inequality, ended in December 2024. To mark the end of this research programme, a two-day international conference that included presentations by both academics and AFSEE Fellows was held. This conference was a good example of how AFSEE creates opportunities for Fellows to engage with academics and policymakers from across LSE and beyond. In addition to paper presentations, the conference included a live podcast session led by Senior Fellow Barbara van Paassen

(2020-21 Cohort) and a multi-media exhibition of photographs and videos from presenters. The conference was attended by LSE staff, students, Fellows, and members of the AFSEE and Atlantic Institute Governing Boards. A selection of the conference papers will be published in an edited volume. The Politics of Inequality research programme will continue as a research network with members of the network developing new collaborations.

LSE Africa Summit 2025

Gathering renowned scholars, leading politicians, changemakers, activists and forward-thinking entrepreneurs, the LSE Africa Summit is an annual student-led conference that showcases Africa's expertise and global contribution, promoting debate around the continent's contemporary challenges and opportunities.

The LSE Africa Summit 2025 was themed, "Securing Africa's future: promoting resilience in a divided world", and it sought to highlight Africa's potential to drive innovative solutions and foster resilience amidst complexities such as a rapidly changing global order marked by shifting trade dynamics, climate challenges, and economic dependencies. The 2025 Summit featured AFSEE Fellows Josephine Chiname (2023-24 Cohort), Maureen Sigauke (2018-19 Cohort), and Aisha Abdulaziz (2021-22 Cohort) who participated in panel discussions.

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Digital Communications as of July 2025



375,246

WEBSITE
VIEWS

The most popular pages this academic year have been the "Applications open for the 2025-26 Cohort" news story (22 per cent of all views); the apply page (8.8 per cent of all views); and the homepage (6.6 per cent of all views). The total number of website views increased by 33.65 per cent this year compared to last academic year.



7,899

NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBERS

AFSEE sends out regular newsletters to its prospective applicants' mailing list, providing further information about the AFSEE Programme and its application process. A further 1,834 people have signed up to the mailing list this academic year, which means that the overall subscriber amount has increased by 30.2 per cent in a year. The list currently has an average open rate of 56.6 per cent and a 7.3 per cent click rate (compared to the industry average of 37 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively).

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

Atlantic Equity Challenge

The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) aims to support projects at the intersection of research and practice that offer paradigm-shifting insights into alternatives and solutions that reduce inequality – rather than focusing solely on the causes and consequences of inequality. These collaborations will draw on multiple forms of knowledge and experience, from across disciplines and sectors. They will incubate new models, policies and approaches that have the potential to disrupt the systems and structures driving inequality.

Through the AEQ, Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) seeks to promote research collaborations between LSE academics and AFSEE Senior Fellows, as well as other partners where relevant. The research grant is envisioned as more than a funding opportunity: it is the beginning of a long-term partnership between the project teams, the AFSEE Programme, and the LSE International Inequalities Institute (III).

“The Atlantic Equity Challenge (AEQ) feeds into AFSEE’s aim of bringing together research, education, and practice, and creating dialogue among a range of different stakeholders, including academics, activists, practitioners, and policymakers. We hope that the AEQ will foster research collaborations between LSE researchers, AFSEE Senior Fellows, and other practitioners which will lead to new models, policies, and approaches that have the potential to disrupt the systems and structures driving inequality.”

Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director of the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity

In its second round, the AEQ funded five projects, which are being implemented during 2024, 2025 and 2026. These include:

HIGHER EDUCATION IN LATIN AMERICA: BOOSTING UPWARD MOBILITY OR REPRODUCING INEQUALITY?

This research aims to evaluate whether Latin American higher education systems exacerbate or alleviate socioeconomic inequalities and examine the mechanisms perpetuating disparities or facilitating upward mobility. The primary aim of the project is to empirically examine whether Chile’s and Mexico’s higher education systems intensify or lessen socioeconomic inequalities.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Dr Louis Sirugue, Research Officer, LSE III; **Dr Valentina Contreras**, Visiting Fellow, LSE III; **Andrea Encalada García**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2020-21 Cohort) and Chief Advisor for the Ministry of Education, Government of Chile; **Malik Fercovic Cerda**, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, LSE and Senior Consultant, Triple Impacto; **Dr Máximo Ernesto Jaramillo-Molina**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2020-21 Cohort) and Associate Professor, University of Guadalajara (CUCSH).

CONNECTING DISABILITY JUSTICE WITH WIDER CHALLENGES TO INEQUALITIES

Working from a Global South perspective, the project develops a practical toolkit for the intersectional inclusion of disability in inequality campaigns and vice versa. It contributes to developing networks between disability and other inequality campaigners, and to building expertise on disability and complex inequalities more widely among inequality and disability campaigners.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Betty Mulavi, Research Consultant, ADD International; **Edward Adiibokah**, Research Fellow, Kintampo Health Research Centre; **Fredrick Ouko Alucheli**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2017-18 Cohort) and Co-Chief Executive, ADD International; **Hamidreza Vasheganifarahani**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2022-23 Cohort) and Occasional Research Officer, LSE III; **Lionel Sakyi**, Public Health Researcher; **Dr Liz Sayce**, Visiting Professor in Practice, LSE III; **Lyla Adwan-Kamara**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2023-24 Cohort) and Disability and Mental Health Specialist; **Perpetual Kariuki**, Research Assistant, ADD International; **Dr Phillipa Mullins**, Visiting Fellow, LSE III

SHIFTING THE DIAL ON STRUCTURAL RACISM AGAINST GYPSY TRAVELLERS IN SCOTLAND

This AEQ project is a direct response to Gypsy Travellers' concerns about their experiences of inequality and the impact of racism and discrimination in Scotland and has been co-created by community members. The co-led research will use storytelling as a research methodology and will co-produce a series of podcasts, blog posts and academic papers.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Professor Coretta Phillips, Professor of Criminology and Social Policy, LSE; **Clare MacGillivray**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2022-23 Cohort) and Director, Making Rights Real; **Caroline Kioko**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2022-23 Cohort) and Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Manager, Porticus Global; **Dr Carolyn Scott**, Lecturer in Journalism, Edinburgh Napier University.

RIGAN – RESISTING INEQUALITIES THROUGH A GLOBAL ARTS NETWORK: ONLINE AND OFFLINE BARRIERS TO AND FACILITATORS OF CONNECTION AND IMPACT

This project will study the development of an international network of arts and community organisations which use the arts to challenge hierarchies and structures of inequalities in their local contexts. The project will develop a series of participatory arts productions and collaborations, accessible online and hybrid platforms for remote collaboration, live performance events within communities, and in-person exchanges.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Professor Ellen Helsper, Professor of Digital Inequalities, Department of Media and Communications, LSE; **Professor Bart Cammaerts**, Professor of Politics and Communication, Department of Media and Communications, LSE; **Jack Nissan**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2017-18 Cohort) and Founding Director, Tinderbox Collective; **Roseline Orwa**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2018-19 Cohort) and Founder and CEO, Rona Foundation; **Vijay Kumar**, Founding Director, Jagriti; **Meera Jatav**, Founding Director, Chitrakoot Collective; **Mike Wamaya**, Founding Director, Project Elimu.

IMPROVING INEQUALITY STATISTICS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This project aims to provide a consistent framework for interpreting and navigating through the existing inequality estimates in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through a rigorous examination of original data sources, it will generate measures of income concentration specifically derived from income tax data for the countries in the region. These series will subsequently be triangulated with other data sources.

RESEARCH TEAM:

Professor Facundo Alvaredo, Professorial Research Fellow, LSE III; **Rosario Fassina**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2022-23 Cohort) and Right to Housing Researcher and Activist; **Daniel Salazar Murillo**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2021-22 Cohort) and Data Insight Analyst, Atlantic Institute; **Dr Ignacio Flores Beale**, Latin American Coordinator, World Inequality Lab and Researcher for the GC Wealth Project, City University of New York; **Mr Daniel Sánchez Ordóñez**, PhD Candidate, Paris School of Economics; **Martín Moyano**, PhD Candidate in Social Science, Universidad de Buenos Aires.

The Academic-Practitioner Collaborations (AcPrac)

Photo Credit: Vardan Papikyan via Unsplash



Launched in December 2021, the Academic-Practitioner Collaborations (AcPrac) project explores how collaborations between academics and practitioners can contribute to social change, with a particular focus on tackling inequalities. The project has two aims: 1) to develop a better understanding of academic-practitioner (AcPrac) collaborations and how these are shaped by knowledge inequalities; and 2) to use this knowledge to help to inform the work of past, current and future cohorts of Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Fellows on how to create and sustain research practice collaborations that can contribute to tackling inequalities through policy change and wider social transformation. The AcPrac project includes a sub-project led by Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson on funding policy and funders in academic-practitioner collaborations.

PROJECT TEAM:

Professor Armine Ishkanian, Executive Director, AFSEE; **Barbara van Paassen**, AFSEE Senior Fellow (2020-21 Cohort); **Dr Tahnee Ooms**, Visiting Fellow, LSE III; **Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson**, Policy Fellow, AFSEE; **Ishita Puri**, Research Assistant, AFSEE; **Yasmine Kherfi**, AcPrac Editor, AFSEE, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, LSE; **Dr Branwen Spector**, Research Assistant, AFSEE and Lecturer in Social Anthropology, University College London.

Over the past three years, the project has grown to include a wide range of outputs, including two academic journal articles, 13 reflection pieces and case studies written by AFSEE Fellows, as well as a multilingual good practice guide. Recent publications include:

- “Academic practitioner collaborations can tackle persistent knowledge inequalities, but they need recognition” (A Ishkanian – *Impact of Social Sciences* blog, 2025)
- “Hierarchies of knowers and knowledges: exploring the potential of academic practitioner collaborations in tackling knowledge inequalities” (A Ishkanian, T C Ooms, B J van Paassen, A Kurt-Dickson, I Puri, B Spector – *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 2025)
- “The role of academia practice partnerships in the well-being economy: retracing synergies between health and social sciences using bibliometric analysis” (T Ooms, K Klaser, A Ishkanian – *Health Policy*, 2023)

These resources are freely accessible on the AcPrac project website and continue to inform AFSEE’s pedagogy and theory of change.

In 2024, the second round of AcPrac case studies was launched, open to AFSEE Fellows from the 2017-18 Cohort to the 2024-25 Cohort who had not participated in the first round. Thirteen abstracts were selected, and the chosen contributors participated in a writing workshop led by Yasmine Kherfi, editor of the first AcPrac series. The second round again highlights the diversity of experiences and perspectives within the AFSEE community and further contributes to the programme’s commitment to bridging academic knowledge with practical action.

The following abstracts were selected:

- “Future urgency” (Gabiella Razzano, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2018–19 Cohort)
- “Deliberative mini publics: a tool for collective reflection on a more just and human rights-based approach to social rights” (Danilo Ćurčić, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2020-21 Cohort)
- “Cromañón: from mourning to politicization. Intersections between academia and mobilizers in a case that made history in Buenos Aires” (Mauro Fernández, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2020-21 Cohort)

- “Exploring academia-practitioner collaboration as a space for non-conformism as a space of transcendence” (Aisha Abdulaziz, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2021-22 Cohort)
- “Navigating power, privilege, and feminist solidarity in the platform economy: bridging academia, unionism, and worker-led resistance” (Kruskaya Hidalgo, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2021-22 Cohort; Angélica Salgado)
- “Publishing as resistance: the politics of independent publishing, language justice, and knowledge production in India” (Madhuresh Kumar, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2021-22 Cohort; Sanjay Josh)
- “Objects and objectification: encounters with Adivasi material culture” (Ruby Hembrom, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2021-22 Cohort)
- “Challenges of collaboration. The role of academia facilitating Municipal Urban Regeneration efforts, the case of Laboratorio 9x18” (Sebastián Ignacio Muñoz Pérez, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2022-23 Cohort)
- “Bridging research and practice: reflections on power, collaboration and learning in implementation of a district mental healthcare plan in Ghana” (Lyla Adwan-Kamara, AFSEE Senior Fellow, 2023-24 Cohort; Lionel Sakyi)
- “Academic-practitioner collaborations to improve citizen security in Central America” (Dany Díaz Mejía, AFSEE Fellow, 2024-25 Cohort)
- “Working at the nexus of academia & practice: reflections on navigating academic-practitioner collaborations under authoritarianism in El Salvador” (Fátima Pacas, AFSEE Fellow, 2024-25 Cohort)
- “Expectations and limitations of journalism as a nexus of academia and practice: experiences of female journalists bridging feminist intellectual circles and Gen Z activists in Korea” (JiHye Jeong, AFSEE Fellow, 2024-25 Cohort)

ACPRAC SUB-PROJECT: FUNDING POLICY AND FUNDERS (FPF) IN ACADEMIC-PRACTITIONER COLLABORATIONS

PROJECT TEAM:

Dr Aygen Kurt-Dickson, Policy Fellow, AFSEE; **Ishita Puri**, Research Assistant, AFSEE.

This study was launched in early 2023 as a sub-project of the Academic-Practitioner Collaborations (AcPrac) project. Its main aim is to investigate the funding landscape that drives academic-practitioner collaborations for social change, with a focus on funding collaborative research projects on inequalities. The key objectives are to understand: 1) “who” is funding collaborative projects on inequalities; 2) the rationale and the policies funders build their investments on; 3) the types of projects and actors funded in these schemes; 4) funders’ main motivations, views and assumptions in funding AcPrac; and 5) awarded projects’ experiences in receiving such funds.

PUBLICATIONS:

- Background Review Report: “Funding policy and funders’ role in driving academic-practitioner collaborations” (A Kurt-Dickson and I Puri – *LSE Research Online*, 2025).
- Bridging research and practice: “Fundors as drivers for social equity” (A Kurt-Dickson – *LSE Inequalities* blog, 2025).
- A summary report of the Funding Policy and Funders (FPF) project’s workshop (A Kurt-Dickson – *LSE Research Online*, 2025).

Incubation Labs

The AFSEE Incubation Labs is a pilot initiative developed by the AFSEE Programme as part of its lifelong engagement strategy. Launched at the AFSEE Leadership Summit in January 2023, the Incubation Labs encourage cross-cohort connections between Senior Fellows around shared areas of interest and work and foster collaborative projects that are designed, led, and implemented by AFSEE Senior Fellows.

Through this initiative, Senior Fellows have opportunities to practise collective leadership and take action on pressing societal challenges; build cross-cohort networks; and strengthen their expertise and collective capacity through peer-to-peer learning and exchange.

In the first round of Incubation Labs, nine projects were developed and implemented by Fellows:

GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH VIRTUAL REALITY



This Lab explored the potential of immersive digital technologies in addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and fostering gender-equitable behaviours among young people in Trinidad and Tobago. Through interactive workshops, virtual reality (VR) experiences, and cultural exhibitions, the Lab engaged participants in discussions on gender norms and advocacy, integrating storytelling with cutting-edge technology.

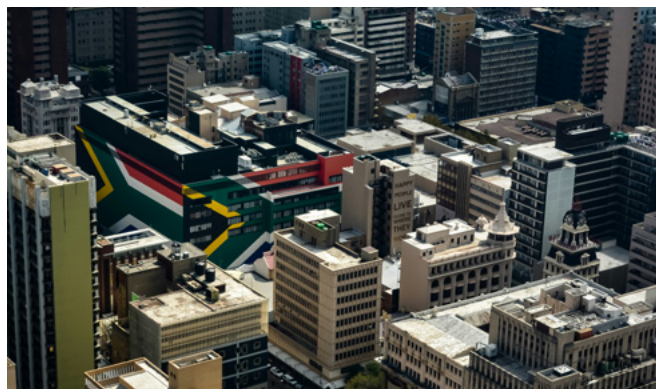
The project's main activities and outputs included: workshops with young people aged 18 to 25, incorporating VR technology with open discussions on GBV, immersive storytelling, and 360-degree filmmaking; working with local organisations to develop and facilitate training; hosting a two-day exhibition of the GAWI VR experience; conducting online training-the-trainers sessions; and organising debrief discussions with workshop participants to assess impact and gather insights for future engagement.

FELLOWS:

Kevin Liverpool (2021-22 Cohort), **Myriam Hernández Vazquez** (2021-22 Cohort), **Craig Dube** (2018-19 Cohort), **Jite Phido** (2021-22 Cohort), **Jack Nissan** (2017-18 Cohort), **Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero** (2021-22 Cohort)

INNOVATION AND EQUITY FOR E-PARTICIPATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Photo credit: Jacques Nel via Unsplash



The Lab explored the potential of digital participation tools to enhance public engagement in local governance. By focusing on South Africa's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) process, the Lab examined the barriers and opportunities for technology-driven citizen participation while fostering discussions on responsible and inclusive digital governance.

The project's main activities and outputs included: workshop preparation and a literature review; hosting an in-person workshop that brought together practitioners from public, private, and civil society sectors to analyse South Africa's IDP process and identify challenges and opportunities for technology-assisted public participation; project plan development for an Augmented Participation initiative to integrate technology into local governance; and a blog post publication.

FELLOWS:

Gabriella Razzano (2018-19 Cohort), **Maria Carrasco** (2020-21 Cohort), **Jenny McEneaney** (2021-22 Cohort), **Myriam Hernández Vazquez** (2021-22 Cohort)

AUNTIES IN ENGLAND: EXPLORING STORIES OF IRISH IMMIGRATION, IDENTITIES, AND CONNECTIONS TO HOME



Photo credit: Carl Goodwin

The "Aunties in England" project documents the experiences of Irish women who emigrated to London between the 1960s and 1990s, exploring their reasons for leaving, their adaptation to life in England, and their evolving sense of identity. Through a series of oral history interviews, the project sheds light on the challenges these women faced, from discrimination to cultural adjustment, while also capturing their resilience and contributions to both British and Irish communities.

The Lab's main activities included: conducting oral history interviews with 15 Irish women in London and Ireland, highlighting personal narratives of migration and identity; conducting an interview with Catherine Dunne, author of *An Unconsidered People*, collaborating with community organisations Ashford Place and the London Irish Centre for outreach, participant engagement, and podcast hosting; producing a podcast series; and hosting a launch event at the Irish Embassy in London.

The project's outputs included producing a six-part podcast series called *Aunties in England*, offering insights into themes of migration, belonging, and intergenerational connections. The podcast series is available to listen to on all platforms, including Spotify and Apple Podcasts. The other output was hosting a launch event at the Irish Embassy in London in June 2025 to bring together community members, oral history experts, and the fellowship network to celebrate and discuss the findings.

FELLOWS:

Jenny McEneaney (2021-22 Cohort), **Michaela Rafferty** (2019-20 Cohort), **Nicola Browne** (2018-19 Cohort), **Clare MacGillivray** (2021-22 Cohort)

CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S VOICES IN TACKLING INEQUALITIES



Photo credit: Lorenzo Zunino via Unsplash

The “Children’s and young people’s voices in tackling inequalities” project explored the role of young people in addressing social inequalities across different cultural and geographical contexts. The project strengthened connections between Fellows working with young people across different regions, fostering international collaboration and mutual learning.

Shadowing visits constituted the main activity of the project. Four members of the team shadowed other members’ work and projects. Louis Oyaro shadowed Jack Nissan at Tinderbox in Edinburgh, Scotland; Jack Nissan and Maureen Sigauke shadowed Roseline Orwa at Rona Foundation in Siaya, Kenya; and Roseline Orwa shadowed Kitti Baracsi and her projects in Lisbon, Portugal. Through these visits, Fellows learned about how youth-led and community-based initiatives operate in diverse settings and what innovative practices empower young people to be active participants in shaping fairer societies.

FELLOWS:

Louis Oyaro (2017-18 Cohort), **Mirilove Tay Acquah-Hagan** (2020-21 Cohort), **Kitti Baracsi** (2020-21 Cohort), **Jack Nissan** (2017-18 Cohort), **Roseline Orwa** (2018-19 Cohort), **Maureen Sigauke** (2018-19 Cohort), **Michaela Rafferty** (2019-20 Cohort)

RESHAPING RIGHTS IN THE AGE OF INEQUALITIES

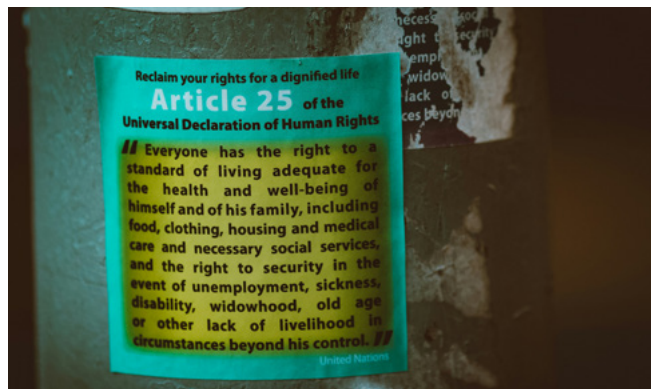


Photo credit: Jon Tyson via Unsplash

The “Reshaping rights in the age of inequalities” project explores how human rights frameworks can be adapted to address contemporary global inequalities. Through collaborative writing and knowledge exchange, this project brings together Atlantic Fellows to critically engage with the challenges and possibilities of reshaping rights-based approaches in today’s world.

Key activities and outputs included a three-day in-person workshop in Paris, where Fellows developed a book proposal, drafted initial chapters, and provided peer feedback on submissions. Additionally, a three-day writing workshop in Cape Town, co-funded by the Atlantic Institute, brought together 14 Fellows from both AFSEE and the broader Atlantic Fellows Programme. The project laid the groundwork for an edited volume that will provide fresh perspectives on human rights and inequality.

FELLOWS:

Fola Adeleke (2017-18 Cohort), **Allison Corkery** (2018-19 Cohort), **Sergio Chaparro-Hernandez** (2021-22 Cohort), **Imogen Richmond-Bishop** (2020-21 Cohort), **Danilo Ćurčić** (2020-21 Cohort)

DECOLONISING FUNDING AND PHILANTHROPY IN AFRICA FOR EQUITY AND INCLUSION



Photo Credit: James Wiseman via Unsplash

The “Decolonising funding and philanthropy in Africa for equity and inclusion” project examines how historical legacies, power dynamics, and systemic inequalities shape development funding across the African continent. Through a collection of essays, this project amplifies African voices and proposes alternative, more equitable funding models. The initiative aims to reimagine philanthropy and resource mobilisation in ways that empower African communities and organisations.

The project has curated seven essays that explore decolonisation in African philanthropy, offering fresh insights and actionable solutions. The compendium is undergoing final editing and design, with plans for publication and dissemination in 2025. Next steps include a virtual and in-person launch event, engagement with key stakeholders, and participation in regional philanthropy discussions. The project aspires to foster long-term dialogue on equitable funding models that prioritise African agency and leadership.

FELLOWS:

Caroline Kioko (2021-22 Cohort), **Jite Phido** (2021-22 Cohort), **Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam** (2020-21 Cohort), **Irene Wakarindi** (2020-21 Cohort), **Makmid Kamara** (2021-22 Cohort)

JUST HOUSING FOR ALL



Photo Credit: Steven Wei via Unsplash

This project connected activists, researchers, artists, and policymakers across Latin America and Europe to address the global housing crisis by dispelling myths and amplifying voices of housing movements. Through its collaborative and multidisciplinary approach, the project underscored the importance of grassroots organising, community connections, and tailoring research to local contexts. By bridging academic and activist knowledge, the project aims to inspire collective action and policy change to address housing inequalities worldwide.

The Lab organised the following activities: a webinar on “Interzones: art, research, and housing activism”; a webinar on “How do we achieve just and fair housing policies?”; a webinar on “The financialisation of housing in Latin America: experiences from Buenos Aires and Santiago de Chile”; and a key in-person meeting in Berlin revolved around housing justice organising and mobilisation.

FELLOWS:

Kitti Baracsi (2020-21 Cohort), **Máximo E Jaramillo-Molina** (2020-21 Cohort), **Danilo Ćurčić** (2020-21 Cohort), **Imogen Richmond Bishop** (2020-21 Cohort), **Michaela Rafferty** (2019-20 Cohort), **Rosario Fassina** (2022-23 Cohort)

(RE)BUILDING SOLIDARITY INCUBATION LAB

Image credit: Ruby Hembrom



This project brought together a diverse group of Fellows to explore and strengthen solidarity within the AFSEE community and beyond. Through meaningful conversations, creative reflections, and collaborative activities, the Lab sought to deepen collective understanding of solidarity and its challenges and opportunities in a rapidly changing world.

The Lab provided a unique space for Fellows to reflect on their work in solidarity and reimagine approaches to activism and community-building. Moving forward, the Lab aims to continue hosting solidarity drop-ins, expanding the podcast series, and exploring the intersections of solidarity with burnout, joy, and creativity. The goal is to foster deeper engagement, meaningful connections, and sustained action for social justice within and beyond the AFSEE community.

The project's main activities and outputs included: engaging with AFSEE Fellows through interviews to gather insights on solidarity practices, challenges and need; hosting a Reimagining Workshop in London with seven Fellows, fostering creative discussions and reflections; recording and publishing a podcast series titled *People vs Inequality* exploring solidarity through different perspectives and experiences; publishing a blog post on the AFSEE blog; and publishing a digital publication sharing insights from the project, exploring reflections on solidarity, and featuring creative contributions from Fellows.

FELLOWS:

Amanda Segnini (2021-22 Cohort), **Barbara van Paassen** (2020-21 Cohort), **Ruby Hembrom** (2021-22 Cohort), **Lyla Adwan-Kamara** (2023-24 Cohort)

CREATING PEER SUPPORT AND SHARED LEARNING SPACES FOR ATLANTIC FELLOWS AND THEIR NETWORKS IN CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENTS



Photo credit: Markus Spiske via Unsplash

This project was established to create peer support and shared learning spaces for Atlantic Fellows and their networks within climate justice movements. The Lab aims to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, emotional resilience, and capacity building among Fellows engaged in climate action.

The main activities and outputs included: establishing a network of 30 Atlantic Fellows working on climate action; hosting peer support sessions with one taking place before COP29, providing Fellows attending the summit with a space to share their work and receive feedback on the challenges they faced, and two sessions after COP29, to reflect on key insights and share lessons with the broader Atlantic Fellows community; the Act on Climate Convening, which took place from 14 to 18 October 2024 in Bogotá, Colombia and was funded by the Atlantic Institute; and *Climate Convening* podcasts produced by the Atlantic Institute to highlight learning from the convening, which members of the Lab were interviewed for.

FELLOWS:

Lauren Burke (2018-19 Cohort), **Sergio Chaparro Hernandez** (2021-22 Cohort), **Amanda Segnini** (2021-22 Cohort), **Maria Carrasco** (2020-21 Cohort), **Madhuresh Kumar** (2021-22 Cohort)

SECOND ROUND OF AFSEE INCUBATION LABS

In spring 2025, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme announced a new call for the second round of Incubation Labs, open to all Fellows from the 2017-18 Cohort to the 2024-25 Cohort. An online information session was held on Thursday 10 April 2025, to provide guidance and a space for Fellows to brainstorm new Incubation Labs. Applications were due by Friday 30 May 2025.

In response to the call, AFSEE received 11 Incubation Lab applications from Fellows from all Cohorts. New and existing Incubation Labs were encouraged to apply, with existing Labs required to introduce new activities and outputs distinct from previous work. Forty-six Fellows applied to the Incubation Labs and seven Fellows applied for more than one Lab.



Panel discussion at the Aunties in England Incubation Lab Launch Event.

OUR NODE PARTNERS

As part of its strategic plan, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme aims to foster a vibrant, global network of distinguished academic institutions that are deeply engaged with understanding and challenging inequalities. Developing strong and sustainable partnerships requires a shared commitment from partners to understand the causes and consequences of inequality and to actively seek solutions to tackle inequality.

External Node partners are expected to demonstrate:

- A strong record in interdisciplinary research and teaching on inequality.
- Regional expertise and networks related to the geography in which they are located.
- Contributions to AFSEE teaching and mentoring Fellows (where applicable).
- Support for AFSEE's recruitment, outreach and networking.

A Node partner is a well-established organisation that shares the AFSEE Programme's values and research interests and is committed to collaborating on the delivery of a sustainable and impactful programme of learning, research, outreach, and knowledge exchange.

The AFSEE Programme offers support to Node partners via the Network Innovation Fund (NIF). NIF projects are expected to focus on researching topics/questions related to social and/or economic equity; contribute to the curriculum of the AFSEE Programme and to at least one of the International Inequalities Institute's (III) research themes²⁷.



Center on International Cooperation, New York University

The Center on International Cooperation (CIC) is a non-profit research centre housed at New York University (NYU). Its mission is to strengthen cooperative approaches among national governments, international organisations, and the wider policy community to advance peace, justice and inclusion. As part of the partnership, AFSEE Senior Fellows will have the opportunity to contribute to CIC's inequality solutions portal and participate in visiting fellowships at NYU. CIC and AFSEE also collaborated on a research project, "Urban glory for the few: extreme urban inequality and its impacts on access to housing in Kinshasa (DRC)".

Urban glory for the few: housing inequality in Kinshasa

This research project, undertaken by NYU CIC as part of its partnership with AFSEE and funded via the Network Innovation Fund (NIF), investigated the extreme urban inequality characterising housing access in Kinshasa. It explored how financialisation, weak governance, and state capture shape the city's housing landscape, marginalising the majority while privileging high-end developments aimed at elites.

The project produced two publications: "Who will cities be for?" (April 2024) and "Urbanization for the few" (February 2025), with the latter translated into French to enhance local impact. Research drew on historical and contemporary analysis, revealing how informal, self-built housing remains the only viable option for most residents, despite growing risks of eviction and climate vulnerability.

27 LSE, [Politics of Inequality](#). Published on LSE.AC.UK.

Three public roundtables convened diverse stakeholders including AFSEE Fellows, researchers, activists and local leaders to inform the work, culminating in the Kinshasa case study. These convenings created space for knowledge exchange on inclusive housing policy and advanced local-global advocacy linkages.

Outputs reached broad audiences via International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) articles, BBC interviews, social media and a short film, with another French-language video forthcoming. The project contributed to building research and advocacy capacity in Kinshasa and strengthened collaborations among African and international housing justice actors.

PROJECT TEAM:

Fernando Marani, Pathfinders Program Director, Center on International Cooperation, New York University; **Raquel Jesse**, Program Officer (Inequality & Exclusion), Center on International Cooperation, New York University; **Dr Roshni Menon**, Senior Program Officer (Inequality & Exclusion), Center on International Cooperation, New York University; **Paula Sevilla Núñez**, Non-Resident Fellow, Center on International Cooperation, New York University.



Centre for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion, Chile

The Centre for the Study of Conflict and Social Cohesion (COES) is our programme's primary and longest-standing research and outreach partner in Latin America. It undertakes collaborative research on issues related to social conflict and cohesion in Chile through a multidisciplinary team drawn from the social sciences and humanities. Launched in 2022, COES and AFSEE collaborated on a research project, "Conflicted identities for social justice? Exploring female economic and political elites in Chile and the UK", under the NIF.

Conflicted identities for social justice? Exploring female economic and political elites in Chile and the UK

Funded by AFSEE's Network Innovation Fund (NIF), the research explores how women in senior political and economic positions in Chile and the UK view and navigate power, privilege, and their roles in promoting (or resisting) social justice and cohesion. It interrogates how these women experience being simultaneously "insiders" and "outsiders" within elite power structures, and how their perspectives may challenge or reinforce prevailing social and political norms.

Over the past year, the team completed over 30 in-depth interviews using a shared interview grid, ensuring data comparability across countries.

There are two main outputs of the project.

1. The first is a chapter in the *Handbook of Sociology of Global Elites*, edited by Mike Savage, Annette Lareau and María Luisa Mendez:

Theodore, Rachel, Castillo, Isabel, Reyes-Housholder, Catherine, "Women economic elites as 'insiders and outsiders' in Chile". This chapter explores how Chilean women who occupy high positions in the business world think about, access, and navigate power. While most research on gender and elites has focused on the

United States and Europe and women's roles as wealthy wives, we examine women in Chile – one of the most economically unequal countries – who meet positional criteria as business elites. Drawing on original interviews and publicly available archives, we argue that these women constitute both “insiders and outsiders” (Savage, 2021, p. 180-182). First, we find that to become insiders, these women rely on strong personal skills, social capital, and networking. Second, as outsiders, they recall gendered challenges in accessing and navigating power and maintain critical views about the structure of power. In this duality of insiders/ outsiders, these women see themselves as role models and mentors for other women, engaging in “honeycomb networking,” a mutually supportive network.

2. The second output is an article, on which the UK and Chilean team have been working on since March 2025, meeting every two weeks. The respective country teams have analysed their data thematically, focusing on both deductive and inductive codes. Additionally, the Chilean team has translated relevant data from their interviews for the UK team to facilitate comparison of the data. Currently, the country teams are working together on the international comparison of the interview data. The team hopes to have the article ready by the end of 2025.

PROJECT TEAM:

Dr Catherine Reyes-Housholder, Associate Professor, Instituto de Ciencia Política, Universidad Católica de Chile and Associate Researcher, COES; **Dr Rachel Théodore**, Chile-based Researcher, Assistant Professor, Centre for Economics and Social Policy, Universidad Mayor and Adjunct Researcher, COES; **Dr Isabel Castillo**, Chile-based Researcher, Assistant Professor, Universidad de Chile and Adjunct Researcher, COES; **Dr Elisabeth Schimpfössl**, UK-based Researcher, Senior Lecturer, Aston University and Visiting Senior Fellow, LSE III; **Dr Katharina Hecht**, UK-based Researcher, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Northeastern University and Visiting Fellow, LSE III; **Dr Chana Teege**, UK-based Researcher, Assistant Professor, Department of Methodology, LSE and Faculty Associate, LSE III; **Felipe Bustos**, Research Assistant, COES; **Jennifer Willmott**, Research Assistant, Aston University; **Matt Reynolds**, Research Assistant, PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, LSE.



PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Partnering with organisations across the world is important for the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) community, as it provides diverse skills development opportunities for AFSEE Fellows, increases the impact of the AFSEE Programme and AFSEE Fellows' work and through that advances its overall mission to advance social and economic equity through collaboration and innovation.

Rethinking activism in Africa: enhancing civic leadership in a time of uncertainty and transition

In 2024, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) Programme launched a collaborative project on, "Rethinking activism in Africa: enhancing civic leadership in a time of uncertainty and transition" with colleagues from the University of Cape Town (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance.

This exciting collaboration between AFSEE and UCT aims to unearth new ideas and solutions, driving forward the debate and new thinking regarding the potential and limits of civil society activism in advancing equality in Africa. It was curated by UCT colleagues Mark Heywood (Project Lead) and Penny Parenzee in collaboration with Professor Armine Ishkanian, AFSEE Executive Director and Grace Farrell-Twiney, AFSEE Partnerships Lead and implemented by Asmaa Akhtar, AFSEE Partnerships Lead (maternity cover) and Wendy Hendricks and Veleska Maphike from the Nelson Mandela School.

While civil society actors across the continent have been active in leading initiatives to address and tackle inequalities, there is growing evidence that progress in narrowing inequality has stalled. In addition, in many countries "civic space" is closing. It is time to reassess these strategies, to ask questions about power, people and what it will require for civil society to reignite sustainable progress towards equality in Africa, which is what the project aims to do.



AFSEE Fellows, Global Atlantic Fellows, AFSEE team members, and Nelson Mandela School team members at the Bertha Retreat, Boschendal, Cape Town.

HOW THE PROJECT BEGAN

The "Rethinking activism in Africa" project began with a provocation essay titled, "Rethinking activism in a time of desperation and despair"²⁸ written by the Project Lead, Mark Heywood, a South African human rights and social justice activist and a researcher at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance. The project progressed with two webinars, "Rethinking activism in Africa: how activists work with the state and other core stakeholders", hosted in December 2024, and "Rethinking activism to overcome inequality in Africa", hosted in January 2025.

Following the webinars where speakers provided key insights, AFSEE Fellows and Global Atlantic Fellows who are based in or are from Africa were invited to submit an abstract for consideration to be included in the book of essays titled *Rethinking Activism in Africa*. Following a competitive review process, 14 Fellows selected from across five Atlantic Fellows Programmes were invited to join this project and to further develop their proposed chapter. As a part of this process, they were assigned a mentor working at the Nelson Mandela School and were also invited to attend a writing retreat to brainstorm innovative ideas and solutions for activism in Africa.

²⁸ UCT, *Rethinking activism in a time of desperation and despair*.
Published on UCT.AC.ZA.

THE SELECTION OF FELLOWS

The AFSEE Fellows selected to participate in this project were Aisha Abdulaziz (2021-22 Cohort), Henintsoa Daniel Rakotoarison (2023-24 Cohort), Josephine Chiname (2023-24 Cohort), Masana Mulaudzi (2017-18 Cohort), Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam (2020-21 Cohort), Tracy Jooste (2017-18 Cohort), and Yara Shawky (2023-24 Cohort).

The AFSEE Programme invited Fellows from the following four Atlantic Fellows Programmes to also participate in the project. These Fellows are: Lazarus Eze from the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health (GBHI); Marx Itabelo Lwabanya and Mildred Omino from Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity (AFHE US + Global); Lebohang Molete, Zandile Mqwathi, and Nangamso Koza from Atlantic Fellows in Health Equity in South Africa (TEKANO); and Emile Lester Jansen from Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity (AFRE).

THE WRITING RETREAT

The retreat, which took place from 20 to 23 May 2025 in Cape Town, was a key part of the project. The 14 Fellows came together over three days to discuss their contributions to the book of essays.

"We at AFSEE are very proud to be supporting this timely project with our colleagues from UCT. Mark and Penny did an amazing job in curating and facilitating the retreat. I would also like to thank the writing tutors, Brian Raftopoulos and Hafte Gebrihet, for their contributions and for the engaging fireside chats. I learned so much from the discussions we had during the retreat, and I look forward to seeing the essays come together in the special edited volume."

Professor Armine Ishkanian,
AFSEE Executive Director

AFSEE Senior Fellow Masana Mulaudzi expressed,

"Our time together at the writing retreat reminded me why I am so grateful to be counted among such thoughtful, empathetic and curious Fellows: everyone leaned in to imagining a future for the world, to building bridges across disciplines and contexts, and to embodying our shared values. It was honestly one of the most significant co-creation spaces I have been to in such a long time!"

The "Rethinking activism in Africa" project will culminate in a book of essays written by the project members who attended the retreat. The book is expected to be published in late 2025, which will be celebrated with planned book launch events in London at The London School of Economics and Political Science, and in Cape Town at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance.

Residential creative communications programme at Hawkwood, The Centre for Future Thinking

From July 21 to 25, the Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity (AFSEE) programme hosted a residential creative communications programme at Hawkwood, The Centre for Future Thinking²⁹ for a group of AFSEE Senior Fellows.

Hawkwood is an arts and educational charity that provides courses and facilitates training, situated in a rural location in the Cotswolds, England. Hawkwood has been running for over 75 years, offering a curated programme and space for learning and residencies in the arts, wellbeing, sustainability, and transformative leadership.



AFSEE Fellows and team members at the residential creative communications programme at the Hawkwood Centre for Future Thinking in the Cotswolds, England.

²⁹ Hawkwood, The Centre for Future Thinking. Published on <https://www.hawkwoodcollege.co.uk/>

AFSEE collaborated with Alicia Carey, CEO of Hawkwood, and her team over the past year to design a bespoke creative communications programme for AFSEE Senior Fellows. This year marks the first of a three-year partnership with Hawkwood.

"We believe creativity, personal development, and a connection to the natural world can inspire individuals and society to shape a more equitable, sustainable future."

Alicia Carey, CEO of Hawkwood

The specially curated weeklong residential programme provided Senior Fellows with an opportunity to deepen their understanding of creative communications and storytelling. Attendees had the time and space to develop their creative communication projects, with the environment specially designed to encourage growth and focus.

After a competitive application process, this year's selected Fellows were: Ahmad Abu Hussien (2023-24 Cohort), Amanda Segnini (2021-2022 Cohort), Eko Octavianus (2023-24 Cohort), Esther Mwema (2019-20 Cohort), Jane Sloane (2017-18 Cohort), Katy Rubin (2023-24 Cohort), Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero (2021-22 Cohort), Lily Jamaludin (2022-23 Cohort), Madhuresh Kumar (2021-22 Cohort), Mauro Fernández (2020-21 Cohort), Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam (2020-21 Cohort), Stephanie Akinwoya (2022-23 Cohort), and Tyehimba Salandy (2020-21 Cohort).

"To sustain the work I do — advancing labour struggles, facilitating workshops, training workers, strategising, and organising with unions — it's essential to pause, to breathe, and to reconnect with creativity. This retreat was an opportunity to learn, to find inspiration, and to return with new tools not only for my own practice, but for the everyday work of collective organising as well."

Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero,
AFSEE Senior Fellow (2021-22 Cohort)

The programme included sessions on various aspects of creative communications, such as how writing can contribute to social change and how to navigate breaking into the publishing industry. Speakers included Alice Jolly, Ally Wilkes, Lisa McKenzie, Oli Munson, and Tatevik Sarsgyan. AFSEE was also excited to welcome two AFSEE Senior Fellows, Katy Rubin (2023-24 Cohort) and Ruby Hembrom (2021-22 Cohort), along with Dana Walrath, from the Atlantic Fellows for Equity in Brain Health (GBHI), to conduct panel sessions.

Along with the daily panel sessions, ample time in the programme was dedicated for Fellows to focus on their individual writing. Fellows also met one-on-one with their writing tutors, Arji Manuelpillai, Catherine Davidson, and Esme Allman, and received feedback on their work.

The retreat focused on a specific theme each day: Connect, Feel, Dream, Play & Improvise, and Action. As well as the creative writing activities, the Fellows took part in various wellbeing activities. Most mornings began with a wellbeing activity such as forest bathing, rest, tai chi, or yoga.

Madhuresh Kumar (2021-22 Cohort) shared his thoughts on one of the activities, 'I joined a forest bathing session, an ancient Japanese practice of slowing down, awakening the senses, and reconnecting with nature. It wasn't just a walk in the woods; it was an invitation to pause, breathe, and notice the life teeming around us.'

AFSEE is looking forward to continuing the residential creative communications program with Hawkwood, The Centre for Future Thinking over the next two years, offering an opportunity for the AFSEE community to come together, learn from one other, and enhance their storytelling and creative communication skills with guidance from the dedicated Hawkwood Team and other experts in the field.

"Thank you to Alicia Carey and the Hawkwood team for hosting the Atlantic Fellows for Social & Economic Equity for a writing retreat. It was a week filled with inspiring discussions and writing in incredibly beautiful surroundings. Thank you also to the wonderful speakers and tutors for making the week so special."

Professor Armine Ishkanian,
AFSEE Executive Director

OUR FELLOWS



2017/18

Appu Suresh (India) - Founder and CEO, Pixstory

Fola Adeleke (Nigeria/Canada) - Executive Director, Global Center on AI Governance

Fredrick Ouko Alucheli (Kenya) - Co-Chief Executive and Transformation Officer, ADD International

Hillary Vipond (Canada/UK) - PhD Candidate, LSE Department of Economic History

Jack Nissan (UK) - Founder, Tinderbox Collective

Jane Sloane (Australia/USA) - Senior Director on Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality, The Asia Foundation

Joey Hasson (Zimbabwe/UK) - Senior Programme Officer for Human Rights, Sigrid Rausing Trust

Johnny Miller (USA/South Africa) - Photographer and Founder, Unequal Scenes

Louis Oyaro (Uganda/Germany) - Human Rights Consultant

Louise Russell-Prywata (UK) - Deputy Executive Director, Open Ownership

Masana Mulaudzi (South Africa) - Senior Campaigns Manager, Wikimedia Foundation

Melanie Brown (USA) - Deputy Director of Global Policy and Advocacy, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Priyanka Kotamraju (India/UK) - PhD Candidate in Sociology, University of Cambridge

Rania Tarazi (Jordan) - Gender and Development Professional

Rose Longhurst (UK/Germany) - Head of Democratic Renewal Team, Open Society Foundations

Saida Ali (Kenya) - International Policy Analyst and Strategist

Sebastian Bock (Germany) - Director for Germany, Transport and Environment

Tracy Jooste (South Africa) - Associate Director of the Governance Action Hub, Results for Development

2018/19

Allison Corkery (Australia/South Africa) - Director, Law Programme, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing

Anita Peña Saavedra (Chile) - Head of International Affairs at the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality, Government of Chile

Anjali Sarker (Bangladesh/UK) - Programme Director of the Global Leadership Challenge, University of Oxford

Craig Tinashe Dube (Zimbabwe/Netherlands) - Training Coordinator, No Means No Worldwide

Elimane Haby Kane (Senegal) - Founder and Chairman, LEGS-Africa

Gabriella Razzano (South Africa) - Executive Director, OpenUp

James Muraguri (Kenya) - Founder and CEO, Institute of Public Finance

Kripa Basnyat (Nepal) - National Project Coordinator, International Labor Organization

Lauren Burke (USA) - Deputy Director of State Affairs, BlueGreen Alliance

Maureen Sigauke (Zimbabwe) - Community Organiser and Activist

Milanoi Koiyiet (Kenya) - Co-Founder, Center for Women's Rights Advocacy

Milena Abrahamyan (Armenia) - Feminist Justice and Peace Activist

Nicola Browne (UK/Northern Ireland) - Founder and Executive Director, Act Now

Pedro Telles (Brazil) - Director, D-Hub

Renata Ćuk (Croatia/UK) - Director of Programmes, Ariadne Network

Roseline Orwa (Kenya) - Founder and CEO, Rona Foundation

Tanya Charles (Zimbabwe/UK) - Senior Program and Impact Lead, Atlantic Institute

Taylor Downs (USA/UK) - Founder and CEO, OpenFn

OUR FELLOWS CON'D



2019/20

Alon-Lee Green (Israel) - National Co-Director, Standing Together

Amanda Young (Australia) - Executive Director, Pollination

Asha Kowtal (India) - Feminist Organiser and Activist

Crystal Simeoni (Kenya) - Director, NAWI: Afrifem Macroeconomics Collective

Della Duncan (USA) - Renegade Economist

Esther Mwema (Zambia) - Artist and Digital Inequalities Expert

Foluke Adetola Ojelabi (Nigeria/USA) - Strategic Planning, Monitoring and Reporting Specialist, UNICEF

Hobeth Martínez Carrillo (Colombia/UK) - PhD Candidate, LSE Department of Sociology

Joan Jones (USA) - Executive Director, Service Employees International Union – Washington State Council

Leanne Sajor (Philippines/USA) - Labour Rights and Gender Justice Advocate

Liz Nelson (UK) - Director of Advocacy and Research, Tax Justice Network

Madhumitha Ardhanari (Singapore/UK) - Climate Justice Activist and PhD Candidate, University of Exeter and University of Queensland

Michaela Rafferty (Ireland) - Youth Engagement and Campaigns Organiser, Just for Kids Law

Sopheha Chrek (Cambodia) - Coordinator, Social Action for Community and Development

2020/21

Andrea Encalada García (Chile) - Chief Advisor for the Ministry of Education, Government of Chile

Barbara van Paassen (Netherlands) - Feminist Economics and Climate Justice Advocate

Christopher Choong Weng Wai (Malaysia/UK) - PhD Candidate, University of Warwick

Claire Godfrey (UK) - Public Policy Specialist and Campaign Strategist

Danilo Ćurčić (Serbia) - Programme Coordinator, A 11 – Initiative for Economic and Social Rights

Georgia Haddad Nicolau (Brazil) - Co-Founder and Director, Instituto Procomum

Imogen Richmond-Bishop (UK) - Advisor on ESCR and Tech, Amnesty International

Irene Wakarindi (Kenya/UK) - Program Officer on Resettlement and Integration, International Organization for Migration

Kitti Baracsi (Hungary/Portugal) - Critical Educator and Curator of Community and Cultural Initiatives

Maria Carrasco (Chile) - Co-Founder and Director, Entramada

Máximo Ernesto Jaramillo-Molina (Mexico) - Co-Founder, Institute of Studies on Inequality

Mauro Fernández (Argentina) - Founder and President, Sociedad y Naturaleza

Mirilove Tay Acquah-Hagan (Ghana) - Women and Youth Prosperity Advocate

Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam (Ghana) - Programmes and Policy Influencing Lead, Oxfam in Ghana

Oabona Sepora (Botswana) - Executive Director, Friends of Diversity

Tyehimba Salandy (Trinidad and Tobago) - Sociologist, University of the West Indies

Viviana Osorio Perez (Colombia) - Economic and Social Rights Consultant



2021/22

Aisha Abdulaziz (Kenya/UK) - Energy Access Specialist

Amanda Segnini (Brazil) - Climate Justice Activist and Campaigner

Caroline Kioko (Kenya) - Gender Equity and Social Inclusion Manager, Porticus Global

Clare MacGillivray (Scotland) - Director, Making Rights Real

Daniel Salazar Murillo (Costa Rica/UK) - Data Insight Analyst, Atlantic Institute

Ishrat Jahan (India) - South Asia Lead for 1t.org, World Economic Forum

Jenny McEneaney (Ireland) - Senior Improvement Policy Adviser on Cyber, Digital and Technology, Local Government Association

Jite Phido (Nigeria/UK) - Senior Program Manager for Innovation, Results for Development

Kevin Liverpool (Trinidad and Tobago) - Gender Equality Advocate

Kruskaya Hidalgo Cordero (Ecuador/Mexico) - Co-Founder, Observatorio de Plataformas

Madhuresh Kumar (India/France) - Climate Justice Activist and Researcher

Makmid Kamara (Sierra Leone/Ghana) - Regional Director for Africa and Middle East, International Fund for Public Interest Media

Myriam Hernández Vazquez (Mexico) - LAC Regional Coordinator at the Fight Inequality Alliance and Independent VR Producer

Rafael Barrio de Mendoza Zevallos (Peru/UK) - PhD Candidate, University of Cambridge

Ruby Hembrom (India) - Founder, Adivaani

Sergio Chaparro Hernandez (Colombia) - International Policy and Advocacy Lead, Tax Justice Network

Zephania Repollo (Philippines) - Southeast Asia Director, Just Associates

2022/23

Carlos Brown Solà (Mexico) - Director of Research and Fiscal Justice, Oxfam México

Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique (Bangladesh/UK) - Activist and Civil Society Professional

Gabriela Valencia (Panama) - Housing and Urban Development Consultant, Inter-American Development Bank

Hamidreza Vasheghanifarahani (Iran/UK) - Researcher and Civil Society Professional

James Aung (Myanmar/UK) - Operations Manager, Organic Roots Myanmar

Leah Eryenyu (Uganda) - Lead for Gender Just Economy Learning Community, Trust, Accountability and Inclusion Collaborative

Lily Jamaludin (Malaysia/UK) - Campaign Manager, Small Axe

Naledi Maite (South Africa) - Feminist Movement Builder and Civil Society Professional

Priyanka Jain (India) - Labour Activist and Researcher

Rhomir Yanquiling (Philippines) - Head of the Knowledge Management and Policy Unit, Nature Sustainability and Local Development Center

Roos Saalbrink (Netherlands/UK) - Global Lead on Economic Justice and Public Services, ActionAid International

Rosario Fassina (Argentina) - Right to Housing Researcher and Activist

Salman Usmani (India) - Digital Communications Specialist

Sebastian Ignacio Muñoz Pérez (Chile/UK) - Co-Founder, Laboratorio 9x18 at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Stephanie Nwaoroni Akinwoya (Nigeria/UK) - PhD Candidate, The Open University

T O Molefe (South Africa/Switzerland) - Publications Director, Atlantic Fellows for Racial Equity and Coordinator, Collective Media Cooperative Limited



OUR FELLOWS CON'D



2023/24

Ahmad Zeyad Abu Hussien (Jordan) - Urban Sociologist

Diana Magdy (Egypt) - Feminist Researcher and Gender Equality Specialist

Eko Octavianus (Indonesia) - Co-Founder, KOLEKTIF

Henintsoa Daniel Rakotoarison (Madagascar) - Child and Youth Care Specialist and Social Protection Services Manager

Josephine Chiname (Zimbabwe) - Social and Environmental Justice Lawyer

Katy Rubin (USA/UK) - Legislative Theatre Practitioner and Creative Civic Strategist

Lyla Adwan-Kamara (UK/Ghana) - Disability and Mental Health Specialist

Manar Alzrai (Palestine) - Teacher, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

Mavis A Koogotsitse (Botswana) - Executive Secretary, Southern Africa Trade Union Coordination Council

Najma Mohamed (South Africa/UK) - Head of Nature-Based Solutions, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre

Omar Mohammed (Trinidad and Tobago) - Lead, Global Narrative Hive

Pascale Frazer-Carroll (UK) - Campaigner and Social Impact Director

Saba Saeed (Pakistan) - Research Analyst, Unbounded Associates

Stephanie Gomes Reis (Brazil) - Social Scientist

Thomas S Smith (USA) - Senior Director Organizing, Communications Workers of America

Yara Shawky Shahin (Egypt) - Researcher and Civil Society Professional

2024/25

Badrul Hisham Ismail (Malaysia) - Researcher and Arts Practitioner

Dany Díaz Mejía (Honduras) - Storyteller and Democracy Advocate

Fátima Pacas (El Salvador) - Director (Education Program), Cristosal

Jen Ang (Scotland/USA) - Founding Director, Lawmanity

JiHye Jeong (South Korea) - Journalist and Gender Equality Specialist

Juan Cardoza-Oquendo (USA/Puerto Rico) - Programs Director, Houston in Action

Juan David Velasco Montoya (Colombia) - Transitional Justice Researcher and Practitioner

Judit Ignácz (Hungary) - Inclusion and Equity Advisor

Kunsang Tsephel (Tibet) - Director, Empowering the Vision Project

Lucia Makamure (Zimbabwe/South Africa) - Operations and Programme Quality Lead, International Development Economics Associates (IDEAs)

Nik Nasha Damia (Malaysia) - Advisor, Rohingya Women Development Network

Nousha Kabawat (Canada/Syria) - Head of Syria Program, The International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ)

Sasha Jattansingh (Trinidad and Tobago) - Loss and Damage Expert, Climate Analytics Caribbean

Solomon Atsuvia (Ghana) - Programmes Manager, Rightify Ghana

Vardini M Sukumar (India) - Independent Researcher

Vicente Silva Didier (Chile/UK) - Tax Justice Policy Advisor

AFSEE TEAM



Professor Armine Ishkanian

Executive Director



Anastasia Nazaryan

Projects Manager



Dr Annalena Oppel

Research Fellow



Asmaa Akhtar

Partnerships Lead
(maternity cover)



Ethan Moss

Programme Administrator



Dr George Kunnath

Academic Lead and
Associate Professor for
Education



Grace Farrell-Twiney

Partnerships Lead (on
maternity leave)



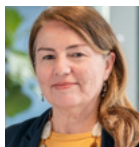
Dr Giannis Efthymiou

Assistant Professorial
Research Fellow in
Innovative Pedagogy



Hala Haidar

Communications and
Marketing Officer



Aygen Kurt-Dickson

Policy Fellow



Jacqui Mujico

Executive Assistant



Liza Ryan

Institute Manager, LSE III



Dr Maël Lavenaire

Research Fellow in Racial
Inequality



Saaga Leppänen

Programme Manager for
Global Engagement and
Impact

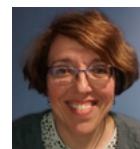


Saara Honkanen

Programme Officer for
Fellowship Experience

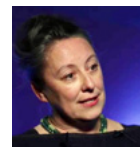
AFSEE GOVERNING BOARD

The AFSEE Governing Board provides operational and programmatic oversight and ensures fidelity to the programme's mission, vision, and principles. Its role is to nurture and support our programme's growth and development and to serve as a champion for the programme, both internally and externally.



Dr Claire Gordon

Board Chair



Professor Ernestina Coast

Board Member



Professor Francisco Ferreira

Board Member



Professor Hakan Seckinelgin

Board Member



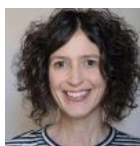
Dr Irene Guijt

Board Member



Professor Jenny Pearce

Board Member



Professor Elizabeth Stokoe

Board Member



Professor María-Luisa Mendez

Board Member



Mohammed-Anwar Sadat Adam

Board Member (Senior Fellow Representative)



Professor Naila Kabeer

Board Member



Dr Phuong Nhan Le

Board Member

AFSEE PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

The AFSEE Programme Committee, which is chaired by the Executive Director, is a consultative body that provides knowledge and expertise to the programme around key areas including curriculum, programming and outreach.



Professor Armine Ishkanian

Committee Chair



Asmaa Akhtar

Committee Member



Anastasia Nazaryan

Committee Member



Dr George Kunnath

Committee Member



Saaga Leppänen

Committee Member



Katy Rubin

Committee Member, Senior Fellows Representative (2023-24 Cohort)



Tracy Jooste

Committee Member, Senior Fellows Representative (2017-18 Cohort)



Raquel Jesse

Committee Member, from our partner organisation, the Center on International Cooperation, New York University



Selam Bedada

Committee Member from our sister programme, the Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity (AFHE)

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