

# Shaping the Future: Rethinking the Role Universities play in International Relations



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## Project and Event



The overall aim of the project is to promote and understand the significance of knowledge diplomacy in both academic and policy discussions that contribute to tackling pressing global issues.

Dr Tim Gore OBE, Knowledge Diplomacy Project Lead



### What is Knowledge Diplomacy

We see Knowledge Diplomacy as project analysing the role of higher education, research, and knowledge exchange in transnational cooperation across a range of processes and stakeholders engaging but not exclusive to HEIs. As such knowledge diplomacy is both the object and the subject of our investigation, and our contribution is to enable the ongoing evolution of the network of networks.

### The Knowledge Diplomacy Project

The Knowledge Diplomacy project explores the impact of scholarly research, innovation, and international higher education on inter-state cooperation. This collaborative initiative involves University of London Institute in Paris, the Centre for Online and Distance Education, City Law School, the British Council, Goethe-Institut, ICR Research and the University of Leeds. It fosters a participatory environment for academics, policymakers, and students to discuss Knowledge Diplomacy's role in policy and global issues. Originating at the British Council's 2019 Going Global conference, the project has since produced seminars, research, and publications, including an upcoming book with Manchester University Press.

*Project Lead: Tim Gore*

*Core Group: Stuart MacDonald, J Simon Rofe, Lilija Alijeva, Monja Stahlberger*

*Advisors: Jo Fox, Kingsley Abbott, Ben Rogers, Barry Smith*

[Link to the Project Webpage](#)

## Event Description

The University of London Institute in Paris is hosting the second annual Knowledge Diplomacy Conference, focusing on the role of universities in supporting diplomats and policymakers. The event aims to address how universities can offer policy-relevant research and leverage cultural institutions' soft power in the face of global challenges such as geopolitical instability, the rise of artificial intelligence, and climate change. Discussions will highlight the need for interdisciplinary research collaboration and actionable policy advice. The conference will explore critical questions:

- To what extent should universities prioritise developing policy that is anticipatory and long-term focussed rather than short-term and in lockstep with national election cycles?
- Where relevant, to what extent does the involvement of “non-traditional” policy-focused disciplines such as history and philosophy provide context and nuance to policy advice that is useful to policymakers?
- Is policy adjacent support useful to policymakers, such as the provision of education and training in relevant fields?
- What should universities do to better support the valuable input of civil society on policy advice, particularly from the global south?

The goal is to produce a summary report with essential recommendations.

# Programme Overview

Wednesday, 3 July

Time	
09:00 AM	<b>Registration</b>
09:15 AM	<b>Welcome by Professor Jo Fox, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research and Public Engagement University of London</b>
09:30 AM	<b>Keynote “Universities, Diplomacy and Power in Tense Times”</b> Sir Geoff Mulgan CBE, Professor of Collective Intelligence, Public Policy and Social Innovation University College London
10:00 AM	<b>Conversation on Growing Geopolitical Risk and Instability – The Role of Universities</b> Professor Kingsley Abbott (Director of the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study) Sir Anthony Finkelstein CBE FREng (President of City, University of London)
11:00 AM	<b>Break</b>
11:15 AM	<b>Panel 1: Soft Power and Cultural Relations</b> Chair: Dr J Simon Rofe (Associate Professor, University of Leeds) Panellists: Maddalaine Ansell (British Council) Sakine Weikert (DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service) Dr Minh-Hà Pham (French Embassy)
12:30 PM	<b>Lunch</b>
01:30 PM	<b>Panel 2: Emerging Technologies</b> Chair: Professor Barry Smith (Director of the Institute of Philosophy, School of Advanced Study) Panellists: Dr Katharina Höne (DiploFoundation   DLR Projektträger (German Aerospace Center)) Professor Alexander Evans OBE (London School of Economics) Dr Timo Hannay (non-executive Director of Sage Publications)
02:30 PM	<b>SPOTLIGHT: The Royal Society on Lessons in Science Diplomacy</b> Chair: Ian Wiggins (Director of International Affairs, Royal Society) Panellists: Professor James Hammond (Professor of Geophysics, Birkbeck University) Sir Richard Catlow FRS FRSC FInstP FLSW (Research Professor, University College London) Fiona Clouder FRUSI, (ClouderVista, The Ambassador Partnership, former FCDO)
03:15 PM	<b>Break</b>
03:30 PM	<b>SPOTLIGHT: Higher Education, Global Diplomacy and Human Rights</b>

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Chair: Dr Liliya Alijeva (Presidential Fellow, The City Law School, City, University of London)

Panellists:

Professor Tawhida Ahmed (Professor of Law, The City Law School, City, University of London)

Professor Fabio Petito (Professor of Religion & International Affairs and Professor of International Relations, University of Sussex)

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**Panel 3: Universities and Global Diplomacy**

Chair: Dr Tim Gore OBE (University of London Institute in Paris)

Panellists

**04:00 PM** Dr Laura Rumbley (Director, Knowledge Development and Research, European Association for International Education)

Sara Gill (Head of Education, British Council France)

Professor Mary Stiasny OBE MA(Ed) PhD (Professor Emerita)

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**Goethe-Institut London: Language – Defining Today; Transforming Tomorrow**

Introduction: Andrea Pfeil (Goethe-Institut) and Stuart MacDonald FRSA (ICR Research)

Panellists:

**06:00 PM** Associate Professor Effrosyni Argyri (University College London's IOE)

Associate Professor Judith Rifesser (NCLE, University College London's IOE)

Honorary Professor Bernadette Holmes MBE (NCLE, University College London's IOE)

Dr Vally Lytra (Reader in Languages in Education, Goldsmiths, University of London)

**Event followed by a reception at the Goethe-Institut in South Kensington**

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**Thursday, 4 July**

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**Time**

**09:00 AM**      **Registration**

**09:15 AM**      **Panel 4: The Climate and Environmental Crisis: the Role of Universities**

Chair: Professor Kingsley Abbott (Director of Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study)

Panellists:

Maud Sarlieve (Institute of Commonwealth Studies and Oxford Sustainable Law Programme)

Dr Farah Faizal (former Maldives High Commissioner to the UK)

Isabel Hilton OBE (Journalist)

Her Excellency Macenje Florence Mazoka (Zambia High Commissioner to the UK)

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**10:30 AM**      **Break**



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<b>10:45 AM</b>	<b>Panel 5: The Metropolitan Age: How can Universities and Cities Work Together in a Fast-Urbanising World?</b> Chair: Ben Rogers (Professor of Practice, University of London) Panellists: Professor Wendy Thomson CBE (Vice-Chancellor, University of London) Greg Clark (Writer, Board Chair, and Senior Advisor) Professor Phil Allmendinger (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education, University of London)
<b>11:45 AM</b>	<b>SPOTLIGHT: Universities and Knowledge Diplomacy in Action</b> Alex Favier (Programme Director Midlands Innovation) Professor Geraint Rees FMedSci FRCP (UCL Vice-Provost Research, Innovation & Global Engagement) Amanda Wolthuizen (Chief of Staff to the President and Director of Public Affairs and Policy) Susie Kitchens (Former Director of the UK Science Innovation Network DSIT/ FCDO)
<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Plenary “Internationalising Higher Education in more Troubled Times”</b> Professor Simon Marginson FBA FAcSS, Professor of Higher Education at the University of Oxford
<b>01:00 PM</b>	<b>ECHIC, Humanities and Knowledge Diplomacy</b> Chair: Professor Charles Burdett (Director of the Institute of Languages, Cultures and Societies, School of Advanced Study), Dr Frederik Van Dam (Assistant professor, Radboud University, Nijmegen) and Dr Anna K. Dulcka (University of Navarra) Panellists: Professor Helen Small FBA (University of Oxford) Dr Arthur Rose (University of Exeter) Professor Daniel Carey (University of Galway)
<b>01:45 PM</b>	<b>Closing Remarks by Professor Jo Fox on The Future of the Knowledge Diplomacy Project</b>
<b>02:00 PM</b>	<b>Lunch and Depart</b>

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# Programme<sup>1</sup>

## Keynote “Universities, Diplomacy and Power in Tense Times”

**Geoff Mulgan** (University College London)

## Conversation on Growing Geopolitical Risk and Instability – the Role of Universities

**Kingsley Abbott** (University of London) and **Anthony Finkelstein** (President, City, University of London)

## Panel 1: Soft Power and Cultural Relations

**Chair:** J Simon Rofe (Leeds University)

**Panellists:**

Maddalaine Ansell (British Council) | Sakine Weikert (DAAD – German Academic Exchange Service) | Min Ha Pham (French Embassy)

**Session Overview**

This session will explore how soft power influences international relations through cultural diplomacy. Our moderator will introduce the panellists, each sharing their perspectives and work of their institutions in short presentations on the relationship between soft power and Knowledge Diplomacy. Following these insights, we will have a 40-minute interactive Q&A session, allowing for a lively exchange between panellists and the audience, exploring the role of cultural institutions and academic scholarship in global diplomacy.

## Panel 2: Emerging Technologies

**Chair:** Barry Smith (University of London)

**Panellists:**

Katharina Höne (DiploFoundation | DLR Projektträger (German Aerospace Centre)) | Alexander Evans (LSE) | Timo Hannay (Non-executive director of Sage Publications)

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<sup>1</sup> For titles and exact affiliation please refer to programme overview.



## SPOTLIGHT: The Royal Society on Lessons in Science Diplomacy

**Chair:** Ian Wiggins (Royal Society)

**Panellists:**

James Hammond (Birkbeck University) | Richard Catlow (UCL) | Fiona Clouder (ClouderVista, The Ambassador Partnership, former FCDO)

**Session Overview**

This panel will present different case studies of science diplomacy in action and consider lessons learnt in each case. Fiona Clouder is an early champion of science diplomacy; in 2001 she joined the FCDO where she built and led their global Science and Innovation Network (UKSIN). Richard Catlow will speak on multilateral scientific engagement, informed through both his co-presidency at the IAP and through his time serving as the Foreign Secretary to the Royal Society. James Hammond is the Director of the Mount Paektu Research Centre, which focusses on developing new scientific collaboration with DPRK scientists on Paektu and other areas of environmental science. The panel will be chaired by Ian Wiggins, director of International Affairs at the Royal Society, and will include a Q&A.

## SPOTLIGHT: Higher Education, Global Diplomacy and Human Rights

**Chair:** Liliya Alijeva (The City Law School, City, University of London)

**Panellists:**

Tawhida Ahmed (The City Law School, City, University of London) | Fabio Petito (School of Global Studies, University of Sussex)

**Session Overview**

The panel seeks to explore the intersection between higher education institutions, global diplomacy and human rights issues. The discussion will focus on the potential ways this intersection can inform the current state of Knowledge Diplomacy research. In the current geopolitical climate, comprehending the diverse functions that knowledge, research, innovation, and higher education have is becoming increasingly important. This is especially relevant when analysing transnational cooperation and initiatives that possess a global dimension of addressing pressing issues that affect our societies all over the world. The lack of awareness, accessibility and implementation of existing human rights standards has become gradually acknowledged as a multi-level and multifaceted problem. In light of these questions and challenges, it is important to explore the connections that the abovementioned fields have. By drawing on the experience of experts, this session provides examples of how the interplay can be observed and studied, moreover the session poses important questions that challenge and add to the current discourse on the ability of academia and the higher education sector to engage with diverse stakeholders that have the potential to influence impactful policy-making outcomes.

## Panel 3: Universities and Global Diplomacy

**Chair:** Tim Gore (University of London Institute in Paris)

**Panellists:**

Laura Rumbley (European Association for International Education) | Sara Gill (British Council France) | Mary Stiasny (University of London)

**Session Overview:**

This session will delve into the evolving concept of knowledge diplomacy and its critical role in addressing global challenges within the realms of universities. Drawing on the University of London's four-year knowledge diplomacy project, the discussion will highlight how universities, through the generation, dissemination, and application of knowledge, serve as key actors in fostering international understanding and connection. Panellists will explore the potential for universities to influence international relations, the necessity of developing effective, evidence-based policy solutions, and the importance of engaging with civil society. Key questions will include the balance between local and global roles, accessibility and practical use of academic knowledge, and the value of cross-border institutional relationships. The session aims to encourage fresh interdisciplinary thinking and bridge theory to practice, ensuring that universities remain pivotal in maintaining open knowledge flows in a fragmented geopolitical landscape.

## Goethe-Institut London: Language – Defining Today; Transforming Tomorrow

**Introduction:** Andrea Pfeil (Goethe-Institut) | Stuart MacDonald (ICR Research)

**Panellists:**

Effrosyni Argyri (UCL) | Judith Rifesser (UCL) | Bernardette Holmes (UCL) | Vally Lytra (Goldsmiths, University of London)

**Session Overview**

This panel explores the notion that a single language may be insufficient for full participation in a diverse, interconnected global society. In the discussion, we will examine the cognitive, social and economic advantages of a multilingual stance, foregrounding its importance in the formation of one's identity, the potential for enhancing problem-solving skills, increasing employability, and developing greater cultural empathy. This roundtable incorporates perspectives from multilingualism, applied linguistics, wider educational theory and pedagogy, as well as perspectives from sociolinguistics exploring the benefits of living and learning with multiple languages for personal and societal development.

## Panel 4: The Climate and Environmental Crisis: the Role of Universities

**Chair:** Kingsley Abbott (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London)

**Panellists:**

Maud Sarlieve (Institute of Commonwealth Studies and Oxford Sustainable Law Programme) | Farah Faizal (former Maldives High Commissioner to the UK) | Isabel Hilton (Journalist) | High Commissioner of Zambia to the UK Macenje Florence Mazoka

**Session Overview**

This panel facilitates a discussion on the role universities can and should play in addressing the climate and environmental crisis. The session will begin with an overview of the current challenges, followed by insights from distinguished panellists: Isabel Hilton will analyse climate change geopolitics, Farah Faizal will discuss perspectives from SIDS and Asia and emphasize the importance of climate education, Macenje Mazoka will provide the viewpoint of a serving High Commissioner with a focus on Africa, and Maud Sarlieve will highlight the significance of climate and environmental justice and the role universities can play. The session will conclude with an interactive Q&A to foster dialogue between the panellists and the audience.

## Panel 5: The Metropolitan Age: How can Universities and Cities Work Together in a Fast-Urbanising World?

**Chair:** Ben Rogers (University of London)

**Panellists:**

Wendy Thomson (Vice-Chancellor, University of London) | Greg Clark (Writer, Board Chair, and Senior Advisor) | Phil Allmendinger (University of London)

**Session Overview**

With more than half the world now living in urban settlements, cities have become major global actors, alongside and sometimes in defiance of the nations that claim them. We have seen a proliferation of informal and formal city networks; and it is often cities, not nations, that are taking the lead in tackling our most challenges economic, social and environmental problems.

Cities and universities, moreover, would seem like natural partners: most universities are located in cities, and cities, like universities, tend to be cosmopolitan, forward-looking and innovative in spirit.

But what role are universities playing in supporting inter-urban co-operation and what role could they play? What are the similarities and differences between knowledge diplomacy at the level of the city and the nation state? What are the benefits and risks to universities in supporting urban agendas and inter-city collaboration? How can cities better engage and leverage the power of universities to support urban diplomacy?

## SPOTLIGHT: Universities and Knowledge Diplomacy in Action

**Chair:** Alex Favier (Midlands Innovation)

**Panellists:**

Geraint Rees (UCL Vice-Provost Research, Innovation & Global Engagement) | Amanda Wolthuizen (Chief of Staff to the President and Director of Public Affairs and Policy) | Susie Kitchens (Former Director of the UK Science Innovation Network DSIT/FCDO)

**Session Overview**

This session will focus on the practical aspects of universities as actors in knowledge diplomacy. It will be divided into three key sections: *The Good*, highlighting how universities have added value to diplomatic relationships; *The Bad*, discussing instances where universities have encountered challenges, whether in relationships, national strategic interests, or their own initiatives; and *The Potential*, exploring future possibilities and directions for universities in knowledge diplomacy.

## Plenary 'Internationalising Higher Education in more Troubled Times'

**Simon Marginson** (University of Oxford)

## ECHIC: Knowledge Diplomacy and the Future of the Humanities

**Chairs:** Charles Burdett (University of London) | Frederik Van Dam (Radboud University, Nijmegen) | Anna K. Dulska (University of Navarra)

**Panellists:**

Helen Small (University of Oxford) | Arthur Rose (University of Exeter) | Daniel Carey (University of Galway)

**Session Overview**

Scholars in the humanities are concerned with some of the fundamental aspects that shape a community, such as its language, history, artistic heritage, and worldview. As such, the knowledge they produce can be instrumentalized in a diplomatic context. One only has to consider how research on the Parthenon Sculptures, kept at the British Museum, has been used to both advocate against and in favour of their return to Greece. To consider the relevance of the humanities for diplomatic practice today, it is crucial to take stock of their current condition. New digital techniques are making it possible to ask questions that were previously unthinkable but also threaten some of the core cognitive and practical skills that typify the humanities; the global climate crisis and geopolitical conflicts are prompting scholars to shift their focus to new research areas; and the precariousness of funding, especially for curiosity-drive research, poses significant challenges. In this roundtable, organised by ECHIC (the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres), three distinguished scholars from different fields in the humanities will address these challenges in order to reflect on the ways in which the humanities play a role in international affairs.

## Speaker Biographies<sup>2,3</sup>

**Kingsley Abbott** is an experienced international criminal and human rights lawyer with more than 20 years experience in international non-governmental organisations, the United Nations, academic institutions and domestic legal practice. He is currently Professor of Practice and Director of the Institute for Commonwealth Studies at the University of London. Prior to that, he spent over nine years in Thailand where he served the International Commission of Jurists as the Director of Global Accountability and International Justice. During this time, he developed and led numerous human rights and rule of law initiatives in Asia and around the world. He has also worked as a Senior Legal Adviser at the Khmer Rouge Tribunal in Cambodia and as Trial Counsel in the Office of the Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon in the Hague. He started his career in his home country of Aotearoa New Zealand, where he mainly practised as a criminal barrister under a leading King's Counsel, appearing in the District Court, High Court and Court of Appeal on numerous matters for both the defence and prosecution. He was admitted to the New Zealand Bar in 2002 and holds a conjoint degree in law and philosophy from the University of Auckland, New Zealand.

**Tawhida Ahmed** is Professor of Law at the City Law School (City, University of London) and an established scholar in minority rights who has gained important impact and connections within the global governance of minority rights community. She has advised the UN and the Council of Europe on minority rights protection. She is currently Chair of the steering group of the Minority Rights Solidarity Network, taking a lead in shaping the direction of the work of the Network, the central aim of which is knowledge exchange, inclusion of minority voices and collaborative research.

**Lilija Alijeva** is Presidential Fellow at the City Law School (City, University of London). Her research focuses on international organisations, implementation of international minority rights norms, and accessibility of international dialogue platforms and processes for civil society actors who represent minority communities. She received the London Arts and Humanities Partnership scholarship award to do her doctoral studies at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, School of Advanced Study. Her PhD thesis combined the disciplines of Law and Political Science. Dr Alijeva is also part of the University of London Knowledge Diplomacy Core Project Team. She is also part of the steering group of the Minority Rights Solidarity Network, which is a network aimed at facilitating collaborations between academic and non-academic stakeholders in the field of minority rights.

**Phil Allmendinger** is Pro Vice-Chancellor Education at the University of London, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge and Visiting Professor at University of Bath. He joined the University of London in June 2024. Phil has over twenty-five years of experience in universities in various senior roles - Professor, Head of Department, Dean, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor, mainly at the University of Cambridge and Clare College, Cambridge. His areas of research include urban planning and governance. (LinkedIn)

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<sup>2</sup> For titles, please refer to programme overview due to the alphabetical order of the speakers.

<sup>3</sup> Some biographies have been compiled using information which was available online. Where biographies were written based on online profiles and information from websites as well as social media this has been indicated in brackets behind the biography.



**Maddalaine Ansell** is the Director for Education at the British Council since November 2018. Maddalaine comes to the British Council from University Alliance where she has been CEO. Prior to this she was at the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills where she worked closely with Lord David Willetts, then Minister for Science and Universities. Her prior career has also set her up well for this role. She completed an undergraduate degree in Classics at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, trained and practiced as a lawyer in large international legal practices and after six years joined the civil service fast stream. She worked on the industrial strategy under Lord Mandelson and the Higher Education White Paper for Lord Willetts. (LinkedIn / British Council Webpage)

**Effrosyni Argyri** is a child multilingualism researcher at UCL's IOE Faculty of Education and Society. Her research focuses on the language and literacy development of school-age bilingual children, on the role of age of onset of bilingual acquisition, of the amount/quality of input and crosslinguistic influence in language learning, and recently on cognitive and brain effects of childhood bilingualism. Her current research adopts an interdisciplinary approach and investigates early childhood bilingualism effects on language, cognition and the brain and biliteracy effects on cognition in bilingual school-age children. Her research has appeared in international peer-reviewed journals such as *Second Language Research*, *Bilingualism: Language & Cognition*, *Applied Psycholinguistics*, *F1000 Research*. She is the convenor of the Multilingualism Special Interest Group of the British Association of Applied Linguistics (BAAL). She is also a co-founder and director of UCL BiLingo, a bilingualism/multilingualism information and education service, which aims to bridge the gap between researchers and the wider community (policy makers, educators, parents, pupils) by disseminating recent research findings on growing up with two or more languages in childhood.

**Charles Burdett** is Professor of Italian Studies and Director of the Institute for Languages, Cultures and Societies (ILCS), which is part of the School of Advanced Study (SAS) at the University of London. An important part of his work concerns the theoretical frame through which we consider transnational contact and the study of cultural translation. From 2014 tot 2017 he was PI of the AHRC project *Transnationalising Modern Languages: Mobility, Identity and Translation in Modern Italian Cultures*. He is currently working on a project on the representation of the Italian Empire and its afterlife.

**Daniel Carey** is Chair of the Irish Research Council and Secretary for the Humanities and Social Sciences of the Royal Irish Academy. His publications include studies of the history of science and medicine in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the history of travel and colonialism, and the history and philosophy of money in the Enlightenment. His work has concentrated in particular on the philosophy of John Locke.

**Sir Richard Catlow** is a professor in materials and computational chemistry working jointly between University College London (UCL) and Cardiff University. He is a former Foreign Secretary and Vice-President of The Royal Society, and formerly co-president of the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP). Earlier in his career Richard was Director of the Davy Faraday Research Laboratory and Wolfson Professor of Natural Philosophy



at the Royal Institution. He was subsequently Dean of the Faculty of Mathematical and Physical Sciences at UCL for seven years.

**Greg Clark** is a writer, Board Chair, and Senior Advisor on cities, transport, built environment, and place leadership. He is author of 10 books and 100 reports and has worked with 400 cities around the world. He is expert advisor on the BBC World Service Series, My Perfect City, author of The Planet of Cities column for RICS, and co-host of The DNA of Cities podcast. Greg's next book, The Century of Cities, is due for publication in Spring 2025. Greg is co-founder, with Dr Tim Moonen, of The Business of Cities. He is a Senior Advisor on Global Cities & Urban Innovation at New London Architecture, and Hon Prof of Cities and Innovation at Strathclyde University. He was previously Lead Advisor, Cities & Regions, Office of Deputy Prime Minister (2004-2010), Executive Director, London Development Agency (2000-2004), MD at Greater London Enterprise, Chief Executive of the London Enterprise Agency, International Director at the London Docklands Development Corporation. He teaches regularly at LSE, Cambridge University, and University College London. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (FAcSS).

**Fiona Clouder** is an experienced diplomat, with a background in science and innovation. She has extensive experience of working with Latin America, both as a diplomat and now through her work in the private sector, where she builds business links and provides insight and advice on government relations and the wider political and economic context. In 2001 Fiona joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (now FCDO), moving from the Research Councils (now UKRI) to build and lead the FCO's global Science and Innovation Network (UKSIN). In 2006 she went to India as Director of Corporate Services, returning to London in 2009 to work on Migration issues. From 2011, as Deputy Director, Americas, Fiona led the FCO's strategy on Latin America (the Canning Agenda). Fiona served as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Chile from Feb 2014 to Jun 2018. In March 2020, she was appointed as the UK Regional Ambassador for Latin America and the Caribbean, UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). While ambassador she worked to drive diplomatic engagement at the top of governments and business to build partnerships and influence for the COP26 outcomes. She sees the global ambition for Net Zero as a major opportunity, and is particularly interested in the links between mining, energy and environment, and related policy and security issues.

**Anna K. Dulska** is a Research Fellow and Associate Professor at the Institute for Culture and Society, where she works in the fields of medieval and contemporary history, as well as on the public uses of history and cultural heritage. She was PI of the research project "Spain XYZ" about the intergenerational transformation of memory in contemporary Spain.

**Alexander Evans** is MPA in Data Science for Public Policy Programme Director. Alexander Evans' previous academic posts have included being the Henry Kissinger Chair at the Library of Congress, a Senior Fellow at Yale, and a Gwilym Gibbon Fellow at Nuffield College Oxford. He has a Ph.D. in politics from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. A career diplomat, he has worked as an advisor to the Prime Minister in 10 Downing Street, Strategy Director in the Cabinet Office, and Director Cyber in the Foreign Office. He has served as Deputy and Acting High Commissioner to India and (briefly) Pakistan, led the United Nations Security Council

expert group on Daesh, Al Qaida and the Taliban, and been a senior advisor to Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in the U.S. Department of State. He was awarded an OBE for his work in Pakistan, where he led the UK's work on the Tribal Areas from 2007 to 2009. (LSE Webpage)

**Farah Faizal** is a Small Island Developing State specialist who works as an independent consultant/writer and public speaker. She was the first woman from the Maldives to attain a Ph.D. Her thesis was on Security Problems of Small Island Developing States. She is a former ambassador with several years of diplomatic experience. She is passionate about addressing the challenges and opportunities of SIDS, especially in the Maldives and South Asia, in the context of climate change, democracy, and human rights. Previously, she served as the High Commissioner of Maldives to the UK (twice) and the non-resident Ambassador of Maldives to Denmark, Finland, France (twice), Ireland, Norway, Spain (twice) and Sweden, where she represented and promoted the interests and values of Maldives in various forums and platforms. She also served as the Maldives Representative to the International Maritime Organisation. She also participated as the Maldives High Commissioner in Commonwealth Heads of Government Meetings as well as other international meetings. She received the Diplomat of the Year from Asia and Oceania Award in 2022. She has also co-edited a book, "Women, Security, South Asia: A clearing in the thicket", which was on women's perspectives on security in South Asia. She was also the 3rd President of the Women in Diplomacy Network in London. She is fluent in English and Dhivehi and has multiple publications and media appearances related to her field of expertise. She has delivered several guest lectures as well as participated on panel discussions on democracy in small states, human rights, climate change and women in diplomacy at various British universities as well as on BBC. Have also spoken at Hay Festival on issues such as climate change as well as democracy in small states, various years. She is currently working on various research projects and publications. Farah is also a published poet. (LinkedIn)

**Alex Favier** is Director of the Invest in UK University R&D - Midlands Campaign, leading a trail-blazing initiative formed by a coalition of seventeen universities, regional government and co-funded by DSIT, DLUHC and UKRI. The Programme leverages universities' global connections to attract inward investment into UK R&D and support economic growth. Alex is also a Senior Advisor on Global, Investment and Clusters for the Midlands Engine and is the Founding Director of Favier Ltd, a company established to support universities and other organisation with UK and global political affairs, innovation strategy and partnership. He has most recently been the Director of Global Reputation and Relations at the University of Nottingham, where he founded and Co-chaired the UK University Overseas Campus Network.

**Anthony Finkelstein** is the President of City, University of London and Professor of Software Systems Engineering. He is a member of Council of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Chair of the Police Science Council established by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC). Until taking up the role of President he was Chief Scientific Adviser for National Security to HM Government, a senior strategic and operational role that involves leadership of science, research and innovation across the UK's national security community. Whilst undertaking this role he retained a position at University College London (UCL) and as a Fellow of The Alan Turing

Institute, the UK national institute for AI and data science, of which he was a founding trustee. Prior to this he was Dean of UCL Faculty of Engineering Sciences and before that Head of UCL Department of Computer Science. He started his career at Imperial College. He has established three successful 'spin-out' companies (including two 'exits') providing respectively professional services, product software and an innovative software service. He is a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering and a Distinguished Fellow of RUSI (the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies).

**Jo Fox** is the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Public Engagement and responsible for the University's overall research and public engagement strategy. She began her career at Durham University as a lecturer in Modern European History before she became Durham History Department's first female professor in 2010 and its first female Head of Department in 2016. She was appointed as the first female Director of the Institute of Historical Research at the School of Advanced Study in 2017. Jo is a regular commentator on historical and contemporary propaganda and disinformation campaigns and works with policymakers on contemporary challenges in this area. She also regularly assists museums and archives in their public programmes and exhibitions. She has previously served as the Honorary Communications Director of the Royal Historical Society. She is a National Teaching Fellow (2007), a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society (FRHistS), and a Fellow of the Royal Society for Manufactures and the Arts (FRSA). From 2019-2023, she served as Chair of the Humanities and Social Science Early Research Awards panels at the Wellcome Trust. Jo is a committed advocate for gender equality and social mobility in Higher Education, has served as an Athena Swan panel chair and as a member of the working group for the Athena Swan Charter Mark, and (with Ben Dodds and the RSA) established social mobility programmes in Northeast England.

**Sara Gill** is Head of Education at British Council France, covering the strategy for national education and skills, higher education and research, and non-formal education. She has a background of over eighteen years of experience specialising in research collaborations, higher education, and public affairs. Sara was Science and Innovation Advisor (part of the [UK Science & Innovation Network](#)), leading on science, higher education and skills, at the British Embassy in Paris, from 2013. Before joining the Science and Innovation network in 2013, Sara worked in public diplomacy at the Embassy for several years during which she led on a wide range of higher education related projects, including the Entente Cordiale Scholarships. Prior to that, she worked in bilingual account management in the private sector in London. Sara has a passion for knowledge diplomacy, research culture and building partnerships, both at institutional and government level. She holds a First Class MA Hons in French (University of St Andrews, 2003) and has lived in France for over 20 years. She was born in the north of England, in Yorkshire.

**Tim Gore** is Chief Executive Officer of the University of London Institute in Paris. He has held senior leadership roles in career postings in France, UK, India, Jordan, Dubai, Singapore and Hong Kong and has substantial experience of higher education in a global context; cultural relations; diplomacy and commercial enterprise. His main expertise is strategy applied within higher educational contexts as well as in internationalisation of higher education and leadership. He has worked closely with a range of government organisations in the countries he has served and received the

OBE for his work in India-UK bilateral relations while he was leading the British Council's education work in India.

**James Hammond** is a Reader in Geophysics at Birkbeck, University of London. His research uses seismology to image inside the Earth, with a focus on imaging and understanding how rocks melt and how this melt migrates and is stored in the Earth's crust and mantle. He conducts large field projects, working in volcanic regions of East-Africa, Chile, China and the Korean Peninsula. James has recently led projects to study Mount Paektu, a volcano that straddles the China-Democratic People's Republic of Korea border. This project, an example of how science and diplomacy can work together, led to the development of the Mount Paektu Research Centre of which James is Director. The Centre focusses on developing new scientific collaboration with DPRK scientists on Paektu and other areas of joint interest. James teaches geophysics and scientific computing and data modelling at undergraduate level. He is also Deputy Head of Department and Assistant Dean (recruitment and retention) in the School of Science. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and Deputy Chair for the Natural Environmental Research Council Geophysical Equipment Facility.

**Timo Hannay** is the founding Managing Director of School Dash Limited, an education technology company based in London and a non-executive director of SAGE Publications. Prior to SchoolDash, Hannay was the founding managing director of Digital Science in London, United Kingdom where he ran the company from its foundation in 2010 until 2015. Digital Science was founded to provide software and services aimed at scientific researchers and research administrators. Prior to Digital Science, he worked for Nature, which was owned by Macmillan Publishers until the merger of Springer and Macmillan to form Springer Nature in 2015. (Wikipedia)

**Isabel Hilton** is a London based writer and broadcaster and founder in 2006 of the China Dialogue Trust (CDT), which published [www.chinadialogue.net](http://www.chinadialogue.net), the world's first bilingual Chinese English website devoted to building a shared approach on climate change and environmental issues, as well as [www.thethirdpole.net](http://www.thethirdpole.net); [www.dialogochino.net](http://www.dialogochino.net), and [www.chinadialogueocean.net](http://www.chinadialogueocean.net). She stepped down from CDT in 2023. Isabel Hilton studied Chinese in Edinburgh and China before embarking on a career in broadcast and print journalism that included authoring and co-authoring several books, reporting from Latin America, Europe and South and East Asia, working for the Sunday Times, the Guardian, the BBC, STV, the Independent, the New Yorker and many others. She is a Contributing Editor at Prospect Magazine, a Visiting Professor at the Lau Institute, KCL and a senior associate fellow at RUSI. She chairs the Centre for Investigative Journalism and co-chairs the Bureau of Investigative Journalism. She was appointed OBE in 2008. She serves on several advisory boards, including the Great Britain China Centre, the IHRB and the Council on Geostrategy, and was a Senior Advisor to the China Council. She holds two honorary doctorates.

**Bernardette Holmes** MBE is Honorary Professor at UCL IoE and is Director of the National Consortium for Languages Education (NCLE). Bernardette is recognized as a leading linguist and advocate for the importance of languages education and has made major contributions to police pedagogy and curriculum development in the UK. She is a fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences and HonFCIL and Vice Presidents of CIOL (Chartered Institute of Linguists).



**Katharina Höne** researches, writes, and teaches at the intersection of international relations and digital technology. She is a scientific officer at DLR Projektträger, German Aerospace Centre, and a Senior Fellow at DiploFoundation. Her interest and expertise include the impact of digital technology on international relations and diplomatic practices, the ethical and equitable (global) governance of artificial intelligence and its role as a topic and tool of foreign policy, and science diplomacy in the context of emerging digital technologies. She has given presentations, conducted trainings, and undertaken research for the African Union, the European External Action Service, the foreign ministries of Finland, Namibia, and South Africa, the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. She holds a PhD from the Department of International Politics at Aberystwyth University (UK) and an MA in diplomatic studies from the University of Leicester (UK).

**Susie Kitchens** is a British Diplomat, with a focus on science and innovation. Until May this year, Susie worked in the UK's new Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, supporting and funding the UK research ecosystem through global collaborations. She represented DSIT in multilateral and bilateral science diplomacy and co-led the global Science and Innovation Network of 130 officers in 60 locations. Previously, Susie has served as Deputy Head of the UK Mission in Nairobi (and UK Perm Rep to the UN Environment Programme), and of the UK Mission in Dar es Salaam, and as Consul General in Boston, Massachusetts. Susie's academic background includes an undergraduate degree in Human Sciences from Oxford University and an MSc in Health Promotion from The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She was the government representative for Team London in the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Programme 2014-2016 and she is currently a Policy Fellow at Cambridge University's Centre for Science and Policy as well as supporting the Babbage Forum on International Industrial Innovation.

**Judith Lamie** is Pro Vice-Chancellor for International Engagement. Judith most recently worked as a Higher Education consultant and joins us with a wealth of experience, having previously held various strategic and internationally-focused senior roles within a number of institutions. Her former roles include Director of International Strategy and Relations at the University of Birmingham, International Director at the University of Leeds, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) at Middlesex University, PVC (External Affairs) at the University of Derby and Chair of the Board of Directors at Navitas UK. Working collaboratively across our Faculties and Professional Services, Judith will support our ambitious international aims by working to broaden our global partnerships, develop a successful transnational education portfolio, increase our international student recruitment and continue to enhance our reputation as a world-leading institution. Judith continues to publish and present widely on the topics of international education, the management of change and innovation and internationalisation. In January 2022 Judith co-authored, *The Evolution of Transnational Education: Pathways, Globalisation and Emerging Trends*, with Dr Chris Hill and Dr Tim Gore. Judith's latest book, *The Evolving Nature of Universities: What Shapes and Influences Identity in International Higher Education*, was published by Routledge in August 2023.

**Vally Lytra** is Reader in Languages in Education and Director of Postgraduate Research at the Department of Educational Studies, at Goldsmiths, University of London. Her research, practice and community engagement focus on multilingualism

in society and language education in minority and migration contexts. She has a long-standing interest in community/heritage languages and teacher training and development. She has published extensively in community and minority languages education; inclusive language pedagogies; faith literacies; language and migration drawing on (auto)ethnographic, and collaborative research methodologies. Her latest edited book *Liberating Language Education* with Cristina Ros I Solé, Jim Anderson and Vicky Macleroy was published in 2022. She co-leads the Special Interest Group D.EL.EXO that fosters an international forum on research, practice, and policy related to the teaching of Greek worldwide and she is co-series editor of the 'Routledge Critical Studies in Multilingualism'

**Stuart MacDonald** is the Founding Director of ICR Research Ltd. He is an experienced policymaker and consultant, with experience of bridging between theory and practice. Stuart established ICR Research after founding and directing the Centre for Cultural Relations (CCR) at the University of Edinburgh and working in a number of other consultancy roles in Germany and Brussels. He has built ICR Research into the UK's leading transdisciplinary research network and consultancy on international cultural relations, working for a diverse range of clients including the UK, Japanese, Finnish and Scottish Governments, and universities in Germany and the UK. He served as a senior policy adviser in international, educational, cultural and digital policy to the UK and Scottish Governments for over 15 years, where he developed and led strategies for international engagement in culture and education. He is an Associate of the Edinburgh Futures Institute, University of Edinburgh, and a Fellow of the Centre for Online and Distance Education, University of London. He is a member of the Advisory Board of CREDO, the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence for Cultural Relations and Diplomacy at the University of Siena. He is a former Honorary Research Fellow in the College of Science, University of Swansea.

**Simon Marginson** is Professor of Higher Education at the University of Oxford, Director of the ESRC/RE Centre for Global Higher Education (CGHE), and Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Higher Education*. Simon led the ESRC Centre for Global Higher Education between November 2015 and April 2024. His research is focused primarily on global and international higher education, higher education in East Asia, the public and social contributions of higher education, and higher education and social equality. He is currently preparing an integrated theorisation of higher education. His scholarship is widely published and cited (Google h-index 67 in September 2019). Books include *Higher Education and the Common Good* (Melbourne University Publishing, 2016); *High Participation Systems of Higher Education*, edited with Brendan Cantwell and Anna Smolentseva (Oxford University Press, 2018); *Changing Higher Education in East Asia*, edited with Xin Xu (Bloomsbury, 2022) and *Assessing the Contributions of Higher Education*, edited with Brendan Cantwell, Daria Platonova and Anna Smolentseva (Edward Elgar, 2023).

**Macenje Florence Mazoka** is the High Commissioner of Zambia to the United Kingdom, bringing a wealth of experience from a distinguished 30-year career in media and broadcasting. Prior to her diplomatic role, she worked extensively in public broadcasting, including significant positions in the United States and South Africa. As High Commissioner, she focuses on economic diplomacy, aiming to strengthen bilateral trade, attract investment, and promote cultural exchange between Zambia and



the UK. Mazoka's commitment to enhancing Zambia's global presence is a hallmark of her tenure. (See [article](#))

**Sir Geoff Mulgan** is Professor in STEaPP at University College London (UCL). He was CEO of Nesta, the UK's innovation foundation, CEO of the Young foundation and had roles in UK government including director of the Government's Strategy Unit and head of policy in the Prime Minister's office. Past books include 'The Art of Public Strategy' (OUP) and 'Big Mind' (Princeton UP). His latest book is 'When Science Meets Power' (Polity Press, 2024). In 2023/24 he chaired an EU programme on 'Whole of Government Innovation' and in 2024 set up the Institutional Architecture Lab, working with many national governments, Rockefeller Foundation and UNDP. He is co-editor of the academic journal Collective Intelligence. His Twitter handle is [@geoffmulgan](#) and website [geoffmulgan.com](#).

**Minh-Hà Pham** has been Counsellor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in the UK since September 2020. Previously, she was Director of the INRA laboratory of comparative neurobiology of invertebrates at Bures-sur-Yvette, France. Spanning over 20 years, her research focused on honeybees' behaviour and risk assessment of transgenic plants and pesticides on beneficial insects. Moving to global management in the early 2000s, she started a role as the Deputy Director of the CNRS European and International Relations Department overseeing the cooperation for the Asia-Pacific area. After being seconded to ParisTech, where she served as Delegate for international relations, she returned to CNRS as the Director of the European and International Relations Department. In 2013 she was appointed as the Counsellor for Science and Technology at the French Embassy in Washington D.C., USA. Returning to France in 2018, she was elected Vice-President for International Relations at University Paris Sciences et Lettres contributing to its selection as an Excellence University. Simultaneously, she was part of a group of experts appointed by the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation for leading the consultation on the "Welcome to France" plan. Currently, she is a member of the Board of AFDESRI (Association of Women Leaders of Higher Education Research and Innovation, in France). She earned a Doctorate and a Thèse d'Etat in Neurosciences at Paris 6 (now Sorbonne University) and obtained an Engineering degree from Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon (now AgroParisTech).

**Fabio Petito** is Professor of Religion & International Affairs in the Department of International Relations at the University of Sussex, where he also leads the *Religion & Foreign Policy Initiative*. He is also Head of the ISPI Programme on "Religions and International Relations" supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and has been a member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief. He teaches, researches and publishes on different theoretical and policy aspects of the role of religion in global politics. His publications include *Religion in International Relations* (2003), *Civilizational Dialogue and World Order* (2009) and *Towards a Postsecular International Politics* (2014). Among his recent publications: Petito, F. (2020), "From Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Advocacy to Interreligious Engagement in Foreign Policy", *Global Affairs*, 6:3, 269-286 and Petito, F., Daou, F. and Driessen, M (2021), eds., *Human Fraternity and Inclusive Citizenship: Interreligious Engagement in the Mediterranean* (Milan, ISPI: Ledizioni, 2021).

**Andrea Pfeil** is Head of Language Department Northwestern Europe & Deputy Director at the Goethe-Institut London. Before joining the Goethe-Institut in London, Andrea worked at their offices in New York as Director of the Language Department from 2014 to 2021. Andrea studied Pedagogy with a focus on adult education, communication, and German as a Foreign Language. Besides, she has a master's degree in educational management. Over the past 16 years, she has focused intensively on quality development in educational processes and the development of hybrid language and training courses. She has worked extensively in teacher training both in Germany and abroad and has been involved in the conception and development of blended learning and online courses as well as digital training formats at the Goethe-Institut. Andrea Pfeil was a consultant in the field of multimedia and distance learning at the Goethe-Institut headquarters in Munich before moving to the Goethe-Institut New York in 2014 as the head of language programs. (LinkedIn / Klett Webpage)

**Geraint Rees** is UCL's Vice-Provost (Research, Innovation & Global Engagement), responsible for providing vision and academic leadership for UCL's world-leading portfolio of £2.96bn in current research funding, £2.5bn of external investment in start-ups and spinouts over the last five years, and more international collaborative research publications with the world's top five knowledge producing economies than any other UK university. He is a non-executive director of UCL Business, one of the world's leading technology transfer companies, the Francis Crick Institute and the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national AI institute. Previously he was Dean of Life Sciences at UCL between 2014-2022 and served as a Senior Scientific Advisor at Google DeepMind between 2015-2020. With over 380 publications and 40,000 citations, his research career has focused on understanding the neural basis of consciousness using functional neuroimaging; his work has pioneered the application of multivariate machine learning techniques to neuroimaging data. He was awarded the Royal Society Francis Crick medal in 2007 and elected Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences in 2010.

**Judith Rifesser** is a quadrilingual associate professor in education at UCL's IOE Faculty of Education and Society and Director of Strategic Learning Futures for the NCLE. Judith is one of the Co-Directors of the Critical Connections: Multilingual Digital Storytelling Project. She is the president-elect of the Association for Language Learning (ALL). She was formerly in charge of the PGCE Secondary Languages Programme at Goldsmiths, University of London, and has held teaching and research positions at various institutions, including the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA where she was also a post-production assistant for the Austro-American film *See You Soon Again* (2011, US/AUT, Lukas Stepanik and Bernadette Wegenstein) which focuses on the educational work of a Holocaust survivor. For her commitment to supporting fellow PhD students and her teaching practice, she received the Southlands College Graduate Award at the University of Roehampton. In her research and collaborations with learners and teachers across the globe, Judith has been exploring the embodied, lived experience of languages learners and educators, cultural studies and filmmaking praxis. One of her films was the runner-up in the BAFTSS awards 2021 in the category videographic criticism and she has shown her films at cinemas and events spaces in the UK and abroad, including the ICA London and the London Feminist Film Festival.

**J Simon Rofe** is Reader/Associate Professor of International Politics at the University of Leeds. He has written widely on all aspects of Diplomacy and is co-editor of the Manchester University Press, Key Studies in Diplomacy series. His work on Knowledge Diplomacy, catalysed alongside Dr Linda Amrane-Cooper in Berlin in 2019, focuses upon networks of knowledge and Diplomacy's core characteristics of Representation, Communication and Negotiation. Dr Rofe was previously Deputy Director of the Centre for Online and Distance Education CODE. He was previously Head of Digital Learning (2016-2020) and headed the Knowledge Exchange and Enterprise portfolio (2020-22) at SOAS University of London. He has designed, developed and delivered under the aegis of the IR Model, numerous online learning programmes at a variety of HEIs, NGOs and other organisations, including the University of London's Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education.

**Ben Rogers** divides his time between LSE Cities, where he is Distinguished Policy Fellow in Government Innovation and University of London, where he is Professor of Practice. Ben is also the Chair of Design South East. Prior to joining LSE, Ben founded Centre for London think tank in 2011 and led its growth to an influential authority on London policy, with an international following. He was a member of the London Finance Commission and is author of many reports on cities, citizenship, public service reform and the built environment. Ben was an Associate Director at the Institution for Public Policy Research (IPPR) for five years and has worked in local and central government, including a year spent as a team leader at the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, working on planning, urban design and quality of place. Since taking up his position at University of London he has set the London Research and Policy Partnership, which brings together London policymakers and academic researchers to tackle London's critical policy challenges. As Bloomberg Distinguished Fellow in Government Innovation, he is leading LSE Cities' European Cities initiative, in partnership with Bloomberg Philanthropies. Ben has a doctorate on Blaise Pascal from Oxford, has written and broadcast widely, and is the author of several acclaimed books including *A J Ayer*, *A Life and Beef and Liberty*. He is currently writing a book on civic republicanism and urbanism.

**Arthur Rose** is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Exeter. His scholarship focuses on the ways in which the Humanities help us to understand environmental and health crises in the world we live in. A special area of study has been asbestos, which became the focus of his second monograph, *Asbestos: The Last Modernist Object* (2024).

**Laura Rumbley** has more than 25 years of experience in the field of international higher education, during which time she has held a range of academic, professional, research and editorial roles. She is currently Director, Knowledge Development and Research, at the European Association for International Education (EAIE), based in Amsterdam. She previously served as Associate Director for the Boston College Center for International Higher Education (CIHE) in the United States and Deputy Director of the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA) in Brussels. Laura has co-edited the *Journal of Studies in International Education* (Sage) since 2014 and has authored and edited a wide range of publications on internationalisation in higher education and other topics in the field of international and comparative higher education. A former U.S. Foreign Service Officer, Laura holds a PhD in Higher Education Administration from Boston College, a Master of International & Intercultural

Management from SIT Graduate Institute, and a bachelor's degree in international politics from Georgetown University.

**Maud Sarlieve** is a Human Rights and International Criminal Lawyer advocating for creative legal thinking to mitigate Climate Change and protect the environment. She holds a master's in international law from the University of Paris-Nanterre, an LLM in European Law from Trinity College Dublin and is licensed to practice law in France. After a couple of years practising as a corporate lawyer in Prague and Paris, Maud switched to specialise in complex international human rights and criminal investigations. Over the last 10 to 15 years, she has operated in conflict and post conflict zones for international jurisdictions and organisations such as the United Nations and the European Union. Her cases have taken her to Southeast Asia, the Middle East, the Balkans, East Africa or Latin America. Since 2016, Maud has been researching how her expertise can assist in addressing the climate crisis. Her publications explore the challenges associated to the definition of the crime of ecocide and to holding corporations accountable for their contribution to climate change and environmental destruction. Maud has given lectures and conferences on these issues at academic institutions around the world and contributes as an independent expert to various research projects on environmental and climate issues.

**Helen Small** is Merton Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Oxford. She has written widely on literature and philosophy, on the figure of the public moralist, and on the relationship between the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences. She is the author of *The Value of the Humanities* (2013) and *The Function of Cynicism at the Present Time* (2020).

**Barry Smith** is a professor of philosophy and director of the Institute of Philosophy at the University of London's School of Advanced Study. He is also the founding director of the Centre for the Study of the Senses, which pioneers collaborative research between philosophers, psychologists and neuroscientists. Barry is currently the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Leadership Fellow for the Science in Culture Theme. He held visiting professorships at the University of California at Berkeley, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia and the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris. A philosopher of language and mind, his current research is on the multisensory nature of perceptual experience, focusing on taste, smell and flavour. He has written theoretical and experimental papers, publishing in *Nature*, *Food Quality and Preference*, *Chemical Senses and Flavour*. He collaborates with chefs and artists and consults widely for the food and drinks industry. In 2007, he edited *Questions of Taste: the philosophy of wine*, Oxford University Press; in 2008, he edited *The Oxford Handbook of Philosophy of Language*, Oxford University Press (with Ernest Lepore), and *Knowing Our Own Minds* Oxford University Press in 1998 (with Crispin Wright and Cynthia Macdonald). Barry is a frequent broadcaster, who has appeared on BBC One's *Masterchef*, BBC Two's *Inside the Factory*, on BBC Radio 4's *The Kitchen Cabinet*, as well as *In Our Time* and Radio 3's *FreeThinking*. In 2010 he wrote and presented a four-part series for the BBC World Service called *The Mysteries of the Brain* and in 2017, wrote and presented a 10-part series for BBC Radio 4 called *The Uncommon Senses*. He is a frequent contributor to *The World of Fine Wine* and wine columnist for *Prospect Magazine*. (UoL Directory of Research and Expertise)



**Mary Stiasny**, a lifelong leader, advocate, role model and mentor, has held range of roles across the Higher Education sector, both with a UK and international focus. Mary began her career as a secondary school teacher, before taking up a role working for Schools of Education, where she trained secondary school teachers at universities across the UK. She went on to hold a number of senior leadership positions across the HE sector, taking senior roles in Faculties of Education at Goldsmiths College, Oxford Brookes University and the University of Greenwich where she became increasingly involved in the leadership of the Internationalisation of Higher Education. She moved to the British Council as Director of Education for some years, and then returned to higher education as Pro-Director with responsibility for Learning, Teaching and International at UCL's Institute of Education. Her last role has been as PVC International, Learning and Teaching at the University of London, overseeing the provision of Higher education by distance and through TNE systems to around 40,000 students per annum in 190 countries around the world. Her work in Higher Education has ensured Mary has been able to lead on her twin passions for developing international education and as an advocate for women in leadership roles within the sector.

**Wendy Thomson** CBE is Vice-Chancellor of the University of London, where she was appointed following a distinguished career in government and higher education. She is recognised as an international expert in public service governance and reform, working closely with governments in Canada and the United Kingdom. Her academic research and policy advice is the field of social policy. As Vice-Chancellor, Wendy has made London's civic agenda a key priority and chairs the London Anchor Institutions' Network and London Research and Policy Partnership. She is currently on the Board of London Higher and Deputy Chair of The Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). She also is chair of the Social Market Foundation, a London-based think tank.

**Sakine Weikert** is Head of the Section Center for International Academic Collaborations (KIWi) at DAAD - German Academic Exchange Service. KIWi offers individual advice and networked expertise to German universities and research organisations in the field of international science co-operation and foreign academic policy. One focus topic is raising awareness on safety-relevant aspects, another one knowledge diplomacy. Her regional expertise is China: From 2018 – 2022 she has been Head of the DAAD office in Shanghai and a DAAD lecturer at the German Department of Fudan University Shanghai. She is trained as a scholar in Comparative Literature and Media Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and she has been a Visiting Researcher at The University of Chicago as well as at Princeton University.

**Ian Wiggins** is the director of International Affairs at the Royal Society. As Director, he leads the International Affairs team and is responsible for making sure an international and global focus is embedded across the work of the Society. Before joining the Royal Society, Ian worked at the University of York in a number of roles, including leading the University's Brexit contingency planning and serving as the first Director for the York-Maastricht Partnership, the university's partnership with Maastricht University. Ian is also a former British Diplomat including postings in Moscow and in Washington D.C. where he was Deputy Head of the Embassy's political section during the 2016 Presidential elections.

**Frederik Van Dam** is Senior Lecturer in European Literature at Radboud University, Nijmegen. His current academic interests revolve around the use of literature in diplomatic contexts. He is working on two books, one dealing with British poetry and peace, the other focusing on Central-European modernism and transnational infrastructure. He is the chair of the European Consortium for Humanities Institutes and Centres (ECHIC) and an editor of the *European Journal of English Studies (EJES)*.

**Amanda Wolthuizen** is Chief of Staff to the President and Director of Public Affairs and Policy at Imperial College London where she has worked for over seven years. She gives advice on engaging with government, parliament and policy-makers as well as on White City Campus communications and public affairs. She is also an Associate Fellow, UK in the World at Chatham House. (LinkedIn/Imperial Webpage).