LSE THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Interdisciplinary
Research
Conference

LSE FESTIVAL 2024
POWER AND POLITICS

Knowledge beyond boundaries:

LSE's student conference, part of LSE Festival

Monday 10 June 2024
The Marshall Building (LSE Campus) and online

lse.ac.uk/Festival

Contents

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Organisers' welcome

Dear students, colleagues, alumni and friends of LSE,

We are delighted to welcome you to Knowledge Beyond Boundaries, the fourth annual interdisciplinary student research conference happening this year as part of the LSE Festival. This conference was designed as an open, welcoming and inclusive space for students and recent alumni of LSE to engage in interdisciplinary dialogue, debate the big questions of social science, and collaborate with others from outside their own discipline. The conference is an opportunity for participants to empower their academic, personal, and professional growth while showcasing their research for the LSE community and beyond.

In organising today's programme, our aim was to bring a diverse set of student and alumni voices into conversation about some of the most pressing challenges of our time, and to provide a space for participants to deepen their knowledge, question previously held assumptions, and learn from each other. We were excited to receive over 110 proposals to present at the conference, including papers, posters, creative show-and-tell projects and performances. The projects range from first-year undergraduate student research to in-progress MSc dissertations, from collaborative research teams to work from recently graduated LSE alumni. We are especially delighted this year to welcome nearly 20 participants from our CIVICA partner universities across Europe, many of whom have travelled to London to be here with us in-person for the conference.

This year, our conference focus aligns with the theme of the LSE Festival: power and politics. Where does the power lie to face key global challenges? Have we lost faith in politics and democracy more broadly? Today's panels focus on a cross-cutting set of themes, touching on (de)colonial histories, legacies and politics, local and global narratives of climate change, the social and philosophical implications of AI, the future of free speech, and more - all with the goal of interdisciplinary conversation about how power and politics shape the world.

As interdisciplinary educators and academics, we are enthusiastic proponents of stepping beyond the boundaries of your degree programme as a student – the skills you need to tackle complex problems can't all be found within the confines of a single discipline. Whether it's learning how competing definitions shape a challenge, understanding why methodological choices matter, or interrogating the borders of disciplines themselves, we hope this conference sparks your curiosity and broadens your understandings of what student-led social science research looks like.

We are grateful to everyone who has made today's conference possible, including generous support from LSE's Educate for Global Impact funds, LSE100 Course Manager Simon Jolly, Louise Jones and the LSE Festival team, Abi Black, Clara Rawlings and the Communications Division, Helen Rosemont and the CIVICA team, the LSE100 Fellows acting as research mentors, our conference chairs/discussants, the LSE Catering, AV, and Portering teams, and our fantastic student event stewards. Most of all, thank you to all of our conference participants who are sharing their research with us at this year's conference.

Enjoy the conference and we hope to see you again next year!

Best wishes,
Dr Jillian Terry, Dr Chris Blunt, Dr Max Afnan, Dr Nina Vindum Rasmussen and Dr Danielle Cameron
Conference organisers, June 2024

Conference programme Monday 10 June 2024 (all times BST)

9:30 – 10:00	**Registration** First Floor, Marshall Building

10:00 – 10:15
Room MAR 1.10

Welcome from the conference organisers

Dr Chris Blunt
Associate Professor (Education) and Co-Director of LSE100, LSE

Dr Jillian Terry
Associate Professor (Education) and Co-Director of LSE100, LSE

Dr Maximillian Afnan
Fellow, LSE

Dr Nina Vindum Rasmussen
Fellow, LSE

Dr Danielle Cameron
LSE100 Student Experience Administrator, LSE

Parallel panel sessions (I)

10:15 – 11:30
Room MAR 1.07

A The future of work and the firm

Neoliberal governmentality in practice: the case of Polish courier drivers in Warsaw
Aleksandra Wajs

Examine the reciprocity between managerial voice endorsement and manager-employee *moqi*
Calvin Zhekai Zhu

On the future of work: global implications of Foucauldian power usage in the digital gig economy
Coralie Belair

Impact of Tesla's innovative business strategies on company market success
Mateusz Bednarz

Conference programme

10:15 – 11:30
Room MAR 1.08

B Exclusion, marginalisation and resistance

Roma involvement in EU policymaking
Francesca Nicolodi

The impact of diaspora communities on public policy
Helena Bondar

Existence is resistance but resistance is not revolution: complex identities and power
Jack Jivani

If water could speak up: hydropolitics and further stories of violence in Chile
Sophia Roldán-Soto

Unmasking the effects: discrimination's impact on imposter phenomenon
Sumayyah Chaudhry

Negotiating power: exploring tensions in fieldwork encounters through visual narratives
Yixuan Liu

10:15 – 11:30
Room MAR 1.10

C Shaping the economy: power, participation and public policy

Participation as a cost saving exercise?
Alice Bell

A price tag on pollution: the case on carbon pricing
Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo

Business power and public policy implementation: the case of the general Anti-Avoidance Clause of Rule XVI in Peru
Elizabeth Córdova-Alvarado

Political finance in Georgia: do donors win more state contracts?
Jack Beeching

The economic, social and political implications of the higher education systems in the European Union
Pasquale Incarnato

The unseen effects: impact of economic growth policies on rising inequality in India and Colombia
Maria Paula Piñeros, Sofia Garcia Durrer and Sonakshi Saha

Conference programme   Monday 10 June 2024 (all times BST)

10:15 – 11:30
Room MAR 2.07

D Interdisciplinary perspectives on gender injustice

Livestreaming, podcasting, and what boys see online: examining new methods of far-right radicalisation in the US
Hannah Lee

Gaining respect without respectability: a coalition-based approach for LGBT+ movements
Iago Mora Arcas

Mahila Samman Savings Certificate: a feminist economics analysis
Khushi Bajaj

"This is Formula 1, fangirl-ified!": exploring the discursive constructions of the young female F1 fan identity through experienced affordances of mediatised motorsport
Lisa Mandal

Occupying care
Moa Jegnell

Beyond the ballot: examining gender quotas in Parliament through a political anthropological lens
Scheherazade Gul

10:15 – 11:30
Room MAR 2.06

E Digital democracy, political movements and the media

'Distractivism' in the age of media-spectacle: mainstream media representations of pro-Palestinian resistance in the UK
Cameron Baillie

Datafication of audiences as a marketization of the relations between people and organizations
María Francisca Sandoval

Navigating the digital democracy: analysing the role of social media (Twitter) in shaping voter engagement and electoral outcomes in Delhi and India (2014–2019)
Sanyam Bajaj

Tug of war: the complexities of free expression on campus
Sarah Onifade

Decoding the dynamics of right-wing populism: a cross-cultural exploration
Sudharsana (Sudha) Jagatheesh Jayanand

I am the digital panopticon
Tirtha Samant

11:30 – 11:45   **Break**
First Floor, Marshall Building

Conference programme

Monday 10 June 2024 (all times BST)

Parallel panel sessions (II)

11:45 – 13:00
Room MAR 1.07

A War: theories, experiences and politics

Hobbesian sovereign in 21st century Ukraine: assessing the impact of Russo-Ukrainian war on public opinion of Volodymyr Zelenskyy
Anastasiya Sakovych and Sudharsana Jayanand

Higher, lower, and the bomb: an extension to Mill's utilitarianism with a critique of Walzer's just war theory
Charles King-Tenison

Framing genocide: critical discourse analysis of British and American media coverage of the South Africa v. Israel ICJ ruling
Isobel Dye

Sharing is caring? A comparative analysis of NATO's approaches to intelligence and civil-military cooperation
Patrick Weimert

11:45 – 13:00
Room MAR 1.08

B Industrial and economic policy: international perspectives

Semiconductor strategies: China, USA, and the global AI arms race
Cici Tang

An empirical assessment of competition law in Pakistan's cement and fertiliser industries
Emaan Siddique

Feeling the heat: commodity chain analysis of the chilli
Gracie Coulwill

Improving access to innovative cancer drugs in Peru: who, how, when?
Inés Marrache Echaiz

Political stakeholder's perspectives on climate change and how it translates to policy action in Africa: a case study of Liberia
Vermon Washington

Conference programme Monday 10 June 2024 (all times BST)

11:45 – 13:00
Room MAR 1.10

C Politics and philosophy in the age of AI

Inequalities lurking in the deep: the hidden elements of our society causing bias in AI
Andrea Ticchi

Generative AI in political campaigns: case study of Pakistan
Injila Bilal

Reducing discrimination in AI recruitment: a five-pillar proposal
Henghui Niu, Mateusz Mikolajczak, Nicholas Scotney and Ruben Moothy

Have AI technology giants become too big to fail?
Sean Tam

Levels of abstraction in art and science
Silvina Maestro

AI global governance: utopia or odds to rise of new transnational legislation
Sofiia Klymchuk

11:45 – 13:00
Room MAR 2.07

D The rise of China: local and global implications

When and how do Chinese politicians use nationalist language?
Gessienne Grey

Unraveling China's foreign policy in Sudan: a critical discourse analysis on Chinese official statements on the Darfur conflict from 2004 to 2023
Gioia Serena Wang

How did CCP combine nationalism and patriotism in China?
Shaotao Wu

The role of domestic capital overaccumulation for Chinese engagement in the Global South
Theresa Mayrhofer

The wall between Us and Them: digital diaspora and (dis)unity in the transnational media context
Yimiao Huang

The bridge-builders: the work and impact of subtitles groups in China
Yipeng Wang

Conference programme
Monday 10 June 2024 (all times BST)

11:45 – 13:00
Room MAR 2.06

E Global perspectives on gender injustice

Looking beyond criteria: a critical analysis of the role of gender in the exercise of citizenship in Assam, India
Amandeep Dosanjh

Identity, experience and violence: the intersection of gender, caste and crime
Gamya Thammireddy

The tickets to sex and love: the dynamics of sexual roles in sex and intimacy among Generation Z gay men in China
Jiankai Yang

Navigating patriarchy in digital spaces: analyzing power dynamics and asymmetric relations in Chinese extreme feminism
Siqi Ma

Who governs India? Studying the influence of gendered cultural power on the political participation of Indian women
Tirtha Samant and Soumya Dixit

11:45 – 13:00
Room MAR 2.09

F Power and politics in the city

Retracing the routes: the renaissance of pedestrian and railway systems in Metro Manila's intermodal future
Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo

Civic power for tactical urban transformation
Bala Nagendran Marimuthu

People we walk past
David Millman

Social capital or social disarray? An investigation into democratic participation across London borough elections, 2002-22
Iman Shaikh

Building blocks
Oscar Hippie-Star Bolton and Varisa Sirisook

13:00 – 13:45

Lunch
First Floor, Marshall Building

Conference programme   Monday 10 June 2024 (all times BST)

Parallel panel sessions (III)

13:45 – 15:00
Room MAR 1.07

A   Poster session: navigating global challenges

AI governance through the lens of transparency, explainability and fairness
Akarsh Bhutani

Is America watching? How the attack at Mers-el-Kebir changed the United States' perception of Europe
Brandon Kirk

Nuclear weapons and the global era
Evelyne Ong

Politics beyond boundaries: unpicking the size objection to world government
Ojas Singh Bhanot

Navigating contradictions: intergenerational class privilege transmission and ideological dissonance among China's new middle class
Xiaowen Judy Zhang

Asian leader for LGBTQ+ rights? Taiwan's same-sex legislation and its dual impact at home and abroad
Joyce Lee and Yunyan (Doris) Huang

13:45 – 15:00
Room MAR 1.08

B   Civic power and participatory politics

Voices unheard: an analysis of group rights in regulatory processes
Christianna Alexiou

People and politics: estimating demographic partisan support with commonly available data
Kyle Morton

Bread, work, freedom: civil resistance and the fight for political legitimacy in Afghanistan
Maarya Rabbani

Is local vocal? a quantitative analysis of voter turnouts in India's municipal elections
Manickam Valliappan

Why some democratizing countries succeed in anti-corruption when others fail: the cases of Bulgaria and Romania
Martin Dimitrov

Conference programme

13:45 – 15:00
Room MAR 1.10

C Addressing climate change, from the local to the global

Branching out: leveraging tech to slash Romania's illegal logging crisis
Amber Fisher, Erin Weeks, Eva Voulgari, Isheeka Prabhu and Nutnicha Santabutra

Evaluation, quantification, and regulation of ecosystem services in Mexico
Fernando Carrera Vega

Harvesting power: the securitisation of agriculture in Brazil's climate battle
Adriana Alzamora, Chiara Francesca Ausenda and Hana Jae Wernick

Resilient livelihood perspective: a bird's eye view of the coastal region of Shatkhira, Bangladesh
Lamia Mohsin

Well-made and fair? Welfare effects of delayed agricultural emissions through temporary offsets in soils
Leona Tenkhoff

Political regeneration in East Ayrshire, Scotland: panacea or urban problem?
Simran Massey

13:45 – 15:00
Room MAR 2.07

D (De)colonial histories, legacies and politics

Rethinking the Habermasian public sphere from a postcolonial perspective: the case study of Morocco World News and Muslim women's representation in France
Elena D'Acunto

'Colonial legacies, politics, and informality': investigating the enduring impact of colonial cash-crop production on contemporary labour markets in Sub-Saharan Africa
Johannes Kirchhof

The past and present of attitudes towards cannabis
Nishanthini Ganesan

15:00 – 15:15 **Break**
First Floor, Marshall Building

Conference programme

Parallel panel sessions (IV)

15:15 – 16:30
Room MAR 1.07

A Poster session: the many faces of injustice

Geographic location matters for private schools: power and politics of capitalists in education industry
Awantika Yogiraj Karhade

"For me, it's always, always, always about humanity and human rights": how London's LGBTQ+ POC participate and build perceptions in the transnational political communication landscape
Khushi Bajaj

Echoes of the streets: unveiling London's pedicab paradox – perceptions versus realities of labor issues
Lauren Lin

A shameless menace: examining harmful political clientelism in 2024 Indonesia's presidential elections
Ardila Syakriah, Naura Haryanto and Trysiani Vania Utomo

Labour educational policy: equity or strategy?
Sebastian Daniels

(De)construction of dual reality: a study on polarised discourse in COVID-19 vaccine journalism
Thanaporn Prayoonrat

15:15 – 16:30
Room MAR 1.08

B History: markets, power and governance

'A general international organization': the idea of the United Nations at the Dumbarton Oaks Conference 80 years on
Avan Fata

History as gossip: a metaphorical enquiry
Hongjing Huang

'Anne Franks who survived rape don't usually write their stories': an investigation of Auschwitz brothel system
Maja Aleksandra Hnatów

Peaceful pillage: the case of the German 'Bureaux d'achats' in occupied France, 1942–1943
Friedrich Haering and Maxim Sebastian Stecenko

Propaganda or reality? Reevaluating the dynamics of autocratic post-colonial power in the Suez Crisis
Salma Abuelatta

Aayiram Kannir: a thousand tears
Rahul Rajakumar and Jathis Sivanesan

Conference programme

15:15 – 16:30

Room MAR 1.10

C Challenging existing power structures

Resisting hegemony: Global South's power play in shaping the development agenda
Agatha Lydia Natania

Anthropology as a tool for decolonisation: confronting the primitive bias and fighting contemporary challenges for the non-Western artist
Damla Karabay

Problematics of meta governance in Bangladesh: the case of the government's cash assistance to the poor during the COVID-19 pandemic
Lamia Mohsin and Taiabur Rahman

The power of bottom-up: policy conceived in the frontlines of justice organisations
Pablo Hilaire

Do scholarships reduce educational inequality for Black students?
Dunnu Sanyaolu, Holly Saunders, Ishrat Alam, Olivia Lin, Prerna Thakkar and Shantanu Chandwani

The past is now: post-transitional justice as identity-building and signalling for insecure democracies in East Asia
Tendra Eid

15:15 – 16:30

Room MAR 2.07

D The politics of movement and migration

Power and refugee gratefulness: experiences of Syrian refugees/asylum seekers in the UK
Almedina Lozić

An investigation into the UK's spending on in-donor refugee costs (IDRCs)
Ammar Khamis

Unpacking labels: a mental health perspective on refugee students in higher education and their geographies of belonging
Navin Vithana

Bidirectional associations between physical activity and emotions in real-time: an ecological momentary assessment study
Peichao Liang

Globalisation, securitised policy, and populism in Europe: power dynamics in migration governance
Zhenyi Chen

A206: understanding the most divisive road in London
Bhakti Thummar and Chad Nickson

16:30 – 18:00

Networking and drinks reception
Eighth Floor, Marshall Building

Participant biographies

A

Adriana Alzamora

Adriana Alzamora is a master's candidate at the Hertie School, specializing in Human Rights and Global Governance. With a law degree from the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú. My academic journey explores the intersection of law, human rights, and environmental justice.

Agatha Lydia Natania

Agatha Lydia Natania, an alumna of the MSc International Social and Public Policy from the LSE, is an advocate for inclusive development cooperation policies from Indonesia. She is passionate about understanding identity and power dynamics within the development agenda. Agatha is dedicated to learning foreign languages and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Akarsh Bhutani

Akarsh Bhutani is pursuing a Master of Public Administration at Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University through the Atlantis Dual Degree Program in partnership with the Hertie School, Berlin. He is interested in bridging the gap between technological innovation and regulatory compliance at the intergovernmental level.

Aleksandra Wajs

Aleksandra Wajs is a graduate student of International Economic Relations at Warsaw School of Economics. Having previously completed undergraduate studies in Global Business and Cultural Anthropology, she combines the two perspectives in her approach to research. Her scientific interests include transport, mobility, and anthropology of work and food.

Alice Bell

Alice Bell is an MSc Gender, Policy and Inequalities student at LSE. She also works as a senior researcher at The Young Foundation and has rich experience of participatory research practice.

Almedina Lozić

Almedina Lozić is an LSE alumna in MSc Inequalities and Social Science. She is interested in conflict inequalities, predominantly how conflicts strengthen existing inequalities and create new inequalities on both social and country level. In the past, she helped establish the War Childhood Museum. She is from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she currently lives.

Amandeep Dosanjh

Amandeep Dosanjh is a postgraduate student pursuing an MSc in International Social and Public Policy at LSE. She is particularly interested in understanding the societal challenges stemming from international and interstate conflicts, as well as exploring the methods employed by various actors in addressing these challenges.

Amber Fisher

Amber Fisher is a first year BSc Geography with Economics at the LSE. She is interested in environmental economics and sustainable development, specifically the role of ESG in the corporate world.

Participant biographies

A

Ammar Khamis

Ammar Khamis is an MSc International Social and Public Policy student at LSE. He is interested in development policy, particularly in regards to the role of community participation.

Anastasiya Sakovych

Anastasiya Sakovych is a first-year BSc Politics and Philosophy student at LSE. She is interested in the interaction between classical political philosophy and modern-day state of affairs, with a focus on Thomas Hobbes' theory and the extent to which it applies to the context of the Russo-Ukrainian War.

Andrea Ticchi

Andrea is a third-year BA student, majoring in Economics and Sociology and minoring in Law at Sciences Po Paris. He is interested in the intersection of geopolitics, international security, new technologies, and human rights. Beyond his studies, Andrea loves cooking, dancing, and hiking around the world.

Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo

Anna Mae Yu Lamentillo is an academic specializing in urban planning and sustainable transportation systems with a particular focus on the Philippines. Her research expertise encompasses cities, carbon pricing, multi-modal transportation, complete streets, transit-oriented development, and pedestrian infrastructure within the unique context of the Philippines' urban landscape.

Ardila Syakriah

Ardila Syakriah is a master's student in International Social and Public Policy at LSE. She is a journalist who has covered Indonesian health and political systems.

Avan Fata

Avan Fata is a third-year BA History student at LSE and an incoming MSc History of International Relations. His research interests include the diplomatic history of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the age of New Imperialism, and the behaviour of states in international organisations

Awantika Yogiraj Karhade

Awantika is a master's student in Local Economic Development student at LSE. She is interested in geographical inequalities and economics of education.

B

Bala Nagendran Marimuthu

Bala Nagendran Marimuthu is an urban strategist and a climate practitioner. He has worked for international thinktanks and city governments in India, delivering multi-sectoral urban development programmes with a specific focus on participatory governance. He is also a UK-India Chevening Scholar, currently pursuing an MSc in Urbanisation and Development at the LSE.

Bhakti Thummar

Bhakti Thummar is a first-year BSc Social Anthropology student at LSE. She is interested in sociocultural studies of human settlements, societies, and linguistic evolution and how they give meaning to ideas of life and living.

Participant biographies

Brandon Kirk

Brandon Kirk is a MA student in Modern History at the LSE, his areas of research are Memory Politics and American-French relations before and during the Second World War.

Calvin Zhekai Zhu

Calvin Zhekai Zhu is a second-year MPhil Management (Organizational Behavior) student at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is interested in employee proactivity, interpersonal relationship, and cross-cultural management. Before his time in Hong Kong, he finished his MSc at LSE and BSc at University of Nottingham.

Cameron Baillie

Cameron Baillie is a taught graduate MSc Political Sociology student at LSE. With interdisciplinary specialism in social movements and media and communications theories, his particular interest lies at their intersection, i.e. movement-media interactions. His theoretical outlook stems from a background in philosophy and political theory.

Chad Nickson

Chad Nickson is a first year BSc Social Anthropology student at LSE. Coming from a background in activism, Chad is interested in centring the 'everyday' into our political imaginings. Outside of academia, Chad is a playwright. His award-winning writing explores the role of creativity in radical political thought.

Charles King-Tenison

Charles reads Economic History MSc at LSE, previously studying at King's College London where he studied Liberal Arts. He is interested in a broad range of topics, especially interdisciplinary approaches to issues such as governance and just warfare.

Chiara Francesca Ausenda

Chiara Francesca Ausenda is a first-year Master's student of International Affairs at the Hertie School. Their research focuses on the nexus between international security and climate change, focusing on the role of non-state actors, resource competition and civil conflicts.

Christianna Alexiou

Christianna Alexiou is an MSc in Regulation student. She is interested in procedural justice, accountability and participation in decision-making processes, DEI policy, public interest regulation, socio-legal studies, and comparative and cross-cultural policy and law. Christianna holds a Bachelor in Journalism Honours with a double minor in Law and Spanish. Notably, she had two articles shortlisted for the Fraser MacDougall Prize for Best New Canadian Voice in Human Rights Reporting in 2021. Her academic contributions have appeared in the journals Journalism Practice, and Facts and Frictions.

Participant biographies

Cici Tang

Cici was born in Beijing, China, and later lived in Singapore, Australia, Canada, and the UK. These experiences of living in different places have made her aware of the variations in people's values across regions, which inspired her passion for breaking down the barriers between regions. She is currently majoring in Mathematics, Statistics, and Business at LSE, and is one of the 3rd cohort scholars of the Uggla Family Program. Outside of her academic pursuits, Cici loves surfing and chocolate.

Coralie Belair

Coralie Belair is completing the MSc Development Management as part of a Dual Master's Degree between SciencesPo and LSE. Having worked on Fiverr for five years, she is interested in the use of control mechanisms in the digital gig economy, particularly in the context of international development.

Damla Karabay

Damla Karabay is a second year LLB Law student at LSE. She is interested in the international legal system and the impact of historical power dynamics on current day affairs. She is also interested in global political tensions related to cultural property and art law.

David Millman

David Millman is a MSc student in Local Economic Development at LSE from Richmond, VA, USA. He is studying how to use policy and law to better create equitable opportunities for everyone in society. David recently graduated from Dartmouth College, where he served as Student Body President.

Dunnu Sanyaolu

Dunnu Sanyaolu is a first-year BSc Economic History student. She is interested in social inequality especially racial inequalities and more importantly how the history of marginalised communities has affected life today.

Elena D'Acunto

Elena D'Acunto is a MSc Gender, Media and Culture student at LSE. Before moving to London, she graduated in philosophy in Milan. She is interested in political philosophy and gender studies, with a postcolonial perspective.

Elizabeth Córdova-Alvarado

Elizabeth Córdova-Alvarado is a student of MSc. Political Economy of Late Development at LSE. She also holds a MA Political Science and government. She is interested in the politics of taxation, inequality and de-democratization as well as the role of the politics of policy in shaping economic policy outcomes.

Emaan Siddique

Emaan Siddique holds an MSc in Economics from LSE. She is interested in international development and industrial organization, particularly in how competition policy affects firms in developing economies. She is the author of The Developing Economist, a blog about the latest research in international development.

Participant biographies

Erin Weeks

Erin Weeks is a first-year BSc Sociology student at LSE. She is interested in the study of alternative communities, especially those who live in intentional communities and how these communities can quell contemporary crises.

Eva Voulgari

Eva Voulgari is a first year BSc Economics and Economic History at LSE. She is interested in economic research, econometric modelling and their applications to the financial world.

Evelyne Ong

Evelyne Ong is a second-year BSc Data Science student at LSE. She is also a research assistant for Dr Jeffrey Legro under the LSE Phelan United States Centre.

F

Fernando Carrera Vega

Fernando Carrera Vega, MSc in International Economics, is pursuing his second Master in Environmental Economics at LSE. He is particularly interested in international cooperation for sustainable development, focusing on vulnerable regions. With professional experience in Uganda, Syria, Lebanon, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, and England, Fernando founded the NGO "Bakomondo" for international cooperation.

Francesca Nicolodi

Francesca Nicolodi is pursuing an LSE-Fudan Double MSc International Social and Public Policy. Her Roma heritage and studies of Roma sociology led her to research Roma people's engagement in EU policymaking, especially within the development and implementation of the 'EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion, and Participation 2020-2030.'

G

Gamya Thammireddy

Gamya Thammireddy is a MA Modern History student at LSE. She has a BA (Honours) in Humanities from Azim Premji University, India. Her areas of interest are Social History, History from the Margins, Conflict Studies, Identity, Intersectionality and individual experiences and accounts of History.

Gessienne Grey

Gessienne Grey is a postgraduate student in Statistics with an interest in evidence-based policymaking. They employ a rigorous quantitative approach to challenge conventional wisdom and suggest new ways of thinking. Their work has tackled green fiscal policy, youth access to political power, labour rights in international trade, and nationalist discourse.

Gioia Serena Wang

Gioia Serena Wang is a final-year BSc student in Politics and International Relations at LSE. She has a keen interest in China and the Global South relations, particularly focusing on the political, economic, and environmental impacts of Chinese investments in Africa. She is also interested in how this relationship influences the global balance of power. Serena aspires to become a political risk analyst and researcher, specializing in China-Africa relations and their broader implications.

Participant biographies

Gracie Coulwill

Gracie Coulwill is a British-Trinidadian LSE BA Geography student, and the incoming President of LSESU's Geography and Environment Society. Her interests lie in health and food geographies, gender, the environment, education and social mobility, regional development, and criminology/ criminal justice — spatially focusing on the UK and the Americas.

Hana Jae Wernick

Hana Jae Wernick is a first-year Master of International Affairs student at the Hertie School. They are primarily interested in the intersection of resource conflict and forestry, with a particular interest in the Brazilian Amazon.

Hannah Lee

Hannah is a MSc student in the Gender, Peace & Security programme at LSE. She received her BA in International Studies from Virginia Tech in the US. Her academic interests are in far-right terrorism, especially white supremacy and incel ideology, and how such radicalised content is spread online.

Helena Bondar

Helena Bondar currently studies in the MSc Local Economic Development programme at the LSE. Previously, she worked in the nonprofit sector and at a tech startup for almost a decade. Helena is interested in the intersection of economics and migration. She is from Moldova and grew up in the US.

Henghui Niu

Henghui Niu is a first-year student BSc Financial Mathematics and statistics students at LSE. She is interested in exploring the unfair treatment in our daily lives and is willing to help improve the situation.

Holly Saunders

Holly Saunders is a first-year BSc International Social and Public Policy with Politics student at LSE. She has particular interest in education, including equality in educational settings and the impacts of education policy on later life outcomes.

Hongjing Huang

Hongjing Huang thinks humankind is coming to an end if we don't transform into a more egalitarian and sustainable global order. As a first-year international history student he cannot do much, but he's trying his best. He also enjoys movies, chess, and classical music.

Iago Mora Arcas

Iago Mora Arcas is a graduate from the MSc in Political Theory at LSE. He is interested in the role of social norms and labels, contemporary feminist theory and queer history.

Iman Shaikh

Iman Shaikh is an MSc Political Science (Comparative Politics & Conflict Studies) student at the LSE. Her main research interests are in local and urban governance, democratic theory, inequality, and political economy. She is looking forward to gaining more work experience in the INGO/public sector space, before undertaking her PhD.

Participant biographies

Inés Marrache Echaiz

Inés Marrache Echaiz is a law and policy professional with over five years of health policy experience in the UK and South America. She holds an MSc in Public Policy and Administration from LSE and currently works in London as a Senior Policy Officer at the Royal College of General Practitioners. Her primary academic interests lie in healthcare policy and politics, especially in healthcare access improvement and non-communicable diseases.

Injila Bilal

Injila Bilal is an MSc student studying the management of digital innovation. With a focus on Generative AI, her research delves into the intersection of technology and politics, offering insights into evolving campaign strategies particularly with the recent elections in Pakistan.

Isheeka Prabhu

Isheeka Prabhu is a first-year BSc Economics student at the LSE. She is interested in anti-trust laws ensuring that firms with power do not exploit the market, as well as the interplay between psychological concepts and economics ones: going beyond rational consumer theory.

Ishrat Alam

Ishrat Alam is a first-year BSc Economic History student at LSE. She is interested in social mobility and advocates for institutions to put in more resources and funding to address the wider issue of educational equality.

Isobel Dye

Isobel Dye is a master's student on the International, Social and Public Policy Research Stream at LSE. She is interested in the media's role in democracy within the broader framework of settler-colonialism, with an emphasis on how political discourse and framing impacts, racialises, and further marginalises communities of colour.

J

Jack Beeching

Jack Beeching is a final-year BSc PPE student at LSE. He's interested in governance and corruption, particularly in the former Soviet Union and Latin America.

Jack Jivani

Jack Jivani is an MA Political theory student. They completed their BA in Psychology and Philosophy at Oxford. They are interested in research which takes an interdisciplinary approach to questions of identity, culture, and power, with a particular focus on marginalisation.

Jathis Sivanesan

Jathis Sivanesan is a dedicated actor and filmmaker deeply driven by his passion for storytelling. With a profound commitment to the craft, he endeavors to weave narratives that resonate with audiences and spark positive change within society. Through his films, he aspires to shed light on pressing issues, provoke thought, and inspire action. Jathis believes in the transformative power of cinema to not only entertain but also to enlighten and empower individuals.

Participant biographies

Jiankai Yang

Jiankai Yang is a second-year BSc Sociology Student. He is interested in the sociology of sexuality and intimacy, especially the study of Chinese gay and bisexual community. He hope can pursue a PhD after graduation.

Johannes Kirchhof

Johannes Kirchhof is a MSc student in International Social and Public Policy (Development) at LSE, researching the historical and colonial determinants of economic informality in Sub-Saharan Africa. His previous work includes field research on labour informality in Uganda and monitoring and evaluation efforts for UN Live's cultural programmes. Johannes applies his background in development economics to engage with complex cultural and economic challenges.

Joyce Lee

Joyce is a BSc International Relations student at LSE. She is interested in researching international institutions and foreign policy, such as the role of international human rights law in Taiwan's diplomatic strategy. She currently contributes as a columnist for Tianxia Magazine, writing commentaries on global affairs and Taiwan's public policy.

Khushi Bajaj

Khushi Bajaj holds an MSc in Media and Communications and is interested in inclusive research that sits at the intersection of social justice, media, and public policy. She has previously contributed to the Global Challenges Research Fund publication 'Notes for the Media: Ordinary Indians, on the reporting of sexual violence.'

Kyle Morton

Kyle Morton is a MSc Data Science Student at LSE. He has previously contributed to research on COVID-19 spread published in Nature's Scientific Reports, and taught Machine Learning topics to graduate students in Canada. Irrepressibly curious, he is always interested in learning more about the world.

Lamia Mohsin

Lamia Mohsin is a young Bangladeshi development professional and researcher working on key areas including climate resilience, adaptation, local governance and public policy. She has recently completed her post-graduation (MSc) in Environment and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science under the UK Government's Chevening Scholarship and has joined as an Innovation and Project Management Officer at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh.

Lauren Lin

Lauren (Wenjia) Lin is an MSc Media and Communication (Data and Society) student at LSE, where she specialises in data governance, AI ethics, and data analytics. During her academic journey, Lauren demonstrated a keen interest in understanding the intersection between human behaviour and technology in urban society, particularly in the digital realm.

Participant biographies

Leona Tenkhoff

Leona is MSc Environmental Economics student at the LSE. Her research interests revolve around agricultural emission pricing, offsets through carbon farming and the distributional effects of environmental taxation.

Lisa Mandal

Lisa Mandal recently graduated with an MSc in Media and Communications from LSE, having previously completed University of Amsterdam's research-focussed pre-Master's programme in Communication Science. Lisa's curiosity lies at the intersections of media psychology, identity, gender, sports, film, new media platforms, pop-culture, and representations. Through her multidisciplinary approach, she aims to add to the discourse surrounding human experiences across contemporary media landscapes. When she's not sipping on her ginger black tea and randomly scrolling through Instagram Reels, you can find her dwelling into spoken word poetry or catching up on all things Formula 1 and fashion!

M Maarya Rabbani

Maarya Rabbani is a recent graduate of the MSc in Comparative Politics at LSE (2022) and was the 2022-23 Education Officer at the LSE Student's Union. Her research stands at the nexus of social transformation and agency, focusing specifically on resistance, political identity, and civic participation within Afghanistan and the broader Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

Maja Aleksandra Hnatów

Maja A. Hnatów is a first-year LLB student at LSE. Since 2020, she has held advisory role as Vice-President of the Council of the World War II Museum in Gdańsk, Poland. Her research in history focuses on arbitrary policymaking in Eastern Europe during World War II.

Manickam Valliappan

Manickam Valliappan is pursuing his MSc in Local Economic Development within the Department of Geography and Environment at the London School of Economics (LSE). With a keen interest in the intersections between economics, geography, and governance, he aspires to conduct impactful research that empowers individuals at both the local and national level.

María Francisca Sandoval

Journalist from Universidad Católica of Chile, with more than nine years of experience spearheading communication and digital reputation strategies for various private and public organizations. Currently pursuing her Master's at LSE, she also collaborates as a researcher at the SoL-UC laboratory in Chile, delving into the dynamics of interactions in social media, using network methodologies based on complex systems theory.

Maria Paula Piñeros

María Paula is a first year MPP student at Hertie School. She has a background in law and is interested in the intersection between human rights and business.

Participant biographies

Martin Dimitrov

Martin Dimitrov is a second-year MA European Public Policy student at York/CEU. In the past decade, he has been writing for Bulgarian and international media on a wide range of topics. One of these - high-level political corruption in states undergoing democratic transition - is now his primary research interest.

Mateusz Bednarz

Mateusz Bednarz, a first-year BA Global Business student at SGH, keenly focuses on Innovation Management. His leadership in customer communication strategies at a Social Media Marketing Agency builds on his experience organizing the MUN Conference. Mateusz looks forward to exploring innovational aspects of world economy giants.

Mateusz Mikolajczak

Mateusz Mikolajczak is a first-year BSc Mathematics, Statistics and Business student at LSE. Together with his LSE100 group, he investigated the ways of combating the adverse consequences of the widespread adoption of AI in the hiring process, which culminated in the creation of a digital report titled "Reducing discrimination in AI recruitment: a 5-pillar approach".

Maxim Sebastian Stecenko

Maxim Sebastian Stecenko is a first-year BA International History student at the LSE. He is interested in Nazi-occupied France between 1940 and 1945, especially the French black market. Maxim is currently researching German operations on the French black market.

Moa Jegnell

Moa Jegnell (she/her) is currently pursuing a MSc in Culture and Society in the Sociology Department at LSE. With a background in humanities, her work intersects cultural theory, creative practices, science and technology studies and sociological methods. Moa's research explores the material-discursive relations of care, health, 'cyborg' embodiment, and technologies.

Naura Haryanto

Naura Haryanto is an MSc International Social and Public Policy student specialising in Non-Governmental Organisations at LSE. She is a development practitioner in program & grant management and partnership building spanning government-related institutions, NGOs and international organisations, with interests in gender equality, social justice, and adolescent education & health.

Navin Vithana

Navin is a third year BA Geography student at the LSE. He is an avid refugee campaigner and activist, advocating for their rights in NGOs and the United Nations. He wishes to develop this research on the identities of refugee students in his Master's Degree at the University of Cambridge.

Nicholas Scotney

Nicholas Scotney is a first-year student at LSE studying for a BSc in Mathematics with Economics. He is interested in the salient issue of AI alignment and its implications for the future of humanity.

Participant biographies

Nishanthini Ganesan

A former technology and sustainability consultant, Nishanthini is currently applying her industry knowledge to research pressing issues as part of her MSc Environment and Development. She hopes that her research into cannabis criminalisation and drug supply chains will lead to more compassionate policing of this and other controlled substances.

Nutnicha Santabutra

Nutnicha Santabutra is a first year undergraduate BSc Management at LSE. She is interested in topics related to deforestation and green energy.

Ojas Singh Bhanot

Ojas S. B. is a second-year Politics and Data Science student at LSE. He is deeply interested in world government and unification, alongside political theory and the politics of AI.

Oscar Hippie-Star Bolton

Oscar is a first year BA Geography student at LSE. He is researching and looking to develop bridges between community engagement and urban planning processes, especially focusing on youth based inequalities. He is doing this through engaging with local counsellors to expand art and culture practises in Kensington and Chelsea.

Pablo Hilaire

Pablo holds a Master of Public Policy from the London School of Economics where he was a Chevening Scholar. He is a lawyer with vast experience in justice institutions, and he currently works as a Policy Advisor. He is an open justice advocate and has worked in opening judicial data. He is interested in the work of frontline justice organisations and the impacts of AI.

Pasquale Incarnato

Pasquale Incarnato is a first-year double degree student, pursuing a MSc in International Management at Bocconi University, Milan, Italy, and a Master in Global Management at the University of Queensland, Australia. He is extremely interested in international economics, politics, and European integration, and he loves using numbers to understand reality.

Patrick Weimert

Patrick Weimert currently studies International Affairs at the Hertie School with a specialization in international security. He is particularly interested in security issues in the nexus between international security and development policy. He has also worked as an intern at the NATO CIMIC Centre of Excellence, as a Professional Year Student at the Stabilisation Platform of the German Federal Foreign Office / GIZ and as an intern at the German Federal Foreign Office. He is particularly interested in the topic of civil-military cooperation.

Peichao Liang

Peichao Liang is an MSc International Social and Public Policy (Research) student at LSE. She is interested in how social determinants shape the health and wellbeing of older adults, particularly the roles of physical and social environments and social care in promoting healthy ageing.

Participant biographies

Prerna Thakkar

Prerna Thakkar is a first-year BSc International Social and Public Policy with Politics student at LSE. She is interested in education policy, especially the ways in which governmental input impacts the quality and diversity of education experienced by individuals from varying demographics.

R

Rahul Rajakumar

Rahul Rajakumar is a postgraduate student in MSc Local Economic Development at LSE, with a focus on advancing the severely impacted northeastern regions of Sri Lanka.

S

Salma Abuelatta

Salma Abuelatta is a first-year BSc Politics and Economics student at LSE. She is particularly interested in Middle Eastern politics, Middle Eastern international relations and the role historical legacies of colonialism play in proliferating autocracy. Outside of politics, she enjoys playing music and reading about mythological stories.

Sanyam Bajaj

Sanyam Bajaj is a final-year Master's student in Public Policy at the Hertie School, Berlin, and a professional photographer. His academic focus is on political communication, with a particular interest in exploring how political parties navigate cultural complexities using innovative digital media strategies."

Sarah Onifade

Sarah Onifade, a student of International Relations at LSE, possesses a fervent interest in critical theory and epistemology. Her role as Welfare Liberation Officer has granted her profound insights into university campuses, offering diverse perspectives on free speech issues. Through her studies, Sarah aims to dissect the complexities of modern discourse, particularly focusing on contemporary discourse on power and its manifestation in fringe global phenomena.

Scheherazade Gul

Scheherazade Gul is a first-year anthropology and law student at LSE who is passionate about exploring interdisciplinary policy analysis. With experience working in international NGOs and trade unions and attending an arts school, she aims to use her insights to contribute positively to society.

Sean Tam

Sean Tam is an MSc Global Politics student at LSE. He focuses his research on global AI governance and the unique power structure of technology giants. Prior to his current studies, he was a technology strategist at Microsoft and co-founded Innovation x Business @CUHK.

Sebastian Daniels

Sebastian Daniels is a first-year BSc Politics and Philosophy student at LSE. His interests lie in political sociology and moral philosophy, specifically how different normative concepts are used to analyse and justify political behaviour, and the implications of this for policy.

Participant biographies

Shaotao Wu

Shaotao Wu is currently a Master's student in MSc Theory and History of International Relations at LSE. Her research interests span Sino-US relations, US politics, and Chinese nationalism. With a keen eye for geopolitical dynamics, Shao delves into the intricacies of international affairs."

Silvina Maestro

Silvina Maestro is an interdisciplinary researcher and artist working at the intersection of philosophy, science and art. She recently graduated from the London School of Economics with an MSc in Philosophy of Science and is currently reading for an MA in Art and Science at Central Saint Martins. Her practice incorporates themes of scientific theory creation, aesthetics and representation in science and art. She has a background in philosophy of science, art and design.

Simran Massey

Simran Massey, an LSE alumna of MSc International Social and Public Policy (2022-23), integrates her research acumen from St. Stephen's College, Delhi (BA Economics), and St. Xavier's College, Bombay (MPP). With accolades including the Swiss Government 2021 scholarship and a year-long UK Parliamentary internship, she is currently a UK Civil Servant at the Department for Transport, informing policy strategies to tackle unprecedented challenges.

Siqi Ma

Siqi Ma is a MSc Gender, Media and Culture student at LSE. She is a determined Chinese feminist, who focuses on the power dynamic between Chinese female individuals and the central government. Her dissertation aims to explore Chinese female forced contraception experiences during one-child policy.

Sofia Garcia Durrer

Sofia holds dual undergraduate degrees from the University of Mannheim, Germany: Political Science with a minor in Sociology, and Economics with a minor in Development Economics. She is currently pursuing a Master in Public Policy at the Hertie School. Her career spans the public sector, non-profit organizations, and academia in both Germany and Colombia. Currently, she works as a permanent Working Student at the Latin America and the Caribbean department at the German Development Bank KfW. She is interested in social policy, econometrics, policy analysis and data science topics.

Sofiia Klymchuk

Sofiia Klymchuk is a lawyer and public servant pursuing a second Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration at LSE as a Chevening Scholar. She is currently an Advisor at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and is particularly interested in digital policies, cyberlaw, and their intersection with geopolitics.

Sonakshi Saha

Sonakshi Saha is a first year MPP student at the Hertie School. She has closely worked with a leading political party in India designing digital campaigns for national and regional elections. She is interested in examining digital public delivery systems through a gendered lens and how to increase citizen engagement in digital governance.

Participant biographies

Sophia Roldán-Soto

Sophia Roldán-Soto is a MSc Human Rights and Politics student at LSE. She is interested in the role of cultural relations for restorative justice processes. She has worked as an actress of theatre for the oppressed, and voluntary researcher for the "Sergio Moya Observatory of International Politics".

Soumya Dixit

Soumya Dixit is a first year Masters student of Public Administration at the LSE. A trained education professional, she is interested in exploring the nexus of politics, education and economic policies in developing countries. She wishes to work on entangling the connections between inequalities, development, and democracies in her work.

Sudharsana Jagatheesh Jayanand

Sudha is a final year BSc Psychological and Behavioural Science student at LSE and a CIVICA student on exchange at SSE. Her interests lie at the intersection of social psychology and political science, focusing on how social communication and cultural influences shape ideological predispositions and political identities.

Sumayyah Chaudhry

Sumayyah Chaudhry is a final-year BSc Psychological and Behavioural Sciences student at LSE. Her interests lie in exploring social identity, considering the effects of prejudice and discrimination on self-perception and mental health. During her time at LSE, Sumayyah helped establish Irrationale, the PBS department's academic journal, acting as Head of Design and Research Lead.

Taiabur Rahman

Taiabur Rahman is a Professor of Development Studies at the University of Dhaka. He has published extensively in international journals and contributed chapters to edited books. His research interests are in the broader areas of public policy and governance, comparative politics and development studies.

Tendra Eid

Tendra Eid is an MPhil student in Politics at the University of Oxford. She is interested in judicial politics, constitution-making, and transitional justice. Her research focuses on the role of constitutional courts in political transitions in the Middle East. She previously worked at the World Bank and the UK Parliament.

Thanaporn Prayoonrat

Thanaporn Prayoonrat is an MSc Media, Communication, and Development student at LSE. She is passionate about the role of media in political economy, especially its linguistic mechanisms in politically polarised discourse. She mainly uses critical discourse analysis with transdisciplinary approaches. She aims to expand theoretical boundaries and challenge naturalised worldviews through her academic research.

Theresa Mayrhofer

Theresa Mayrhofer is an MSc International Social and Public Policy (Research) student at LSE. She is interested in the impending shift from a unipolar Western hegemony to a multipolar world, particularly China's rise within the Western hegemonic framework. She understands these developments through a Marxist lens.

Tirtha Samant

Tirtha Samant is a first-year MPA student at LSE. She is a public-policy enthusiast and has previously worked with change.org, Observer Research Foundation and a Member of Parliament back in India on issues catering to women empowerment. She is also a published poet and blogger and strives towards making an impact while fostering her hobbies of poetry, writing and music.

Trysiani Vania Utomo

Trysiani Vania Utomo is a MSc Culture and Society student at LSE. She is a seasoned qualitative researcher who is currently immersing herself in the field of cultural sociology to explore human rights issues in her future research.

V

Varisa Sirisook

Varisa Sirisook is a first-year BSc History and Politics student at LSE. A native of Thailand, Varisa is interested in social and political ideologies, especially those that drive imperial and national myths, as well as their construction and influence on society.

Vermon Washington

Vermon Washington is a candidate for a Master in International Development at IE University. He is highly interested in public policy, sustainability-related topics, and understanding how concrete policy actions drive the implementation of SDGs in developing countries. He is also researching how stakeholders' perspectives on climate change correlate to policy action on the African continent, using Liberia as a case study.

X

Xiaowen Judy Zhang

Xiaowen Judy Zhang is a MSc Economy and Society student at LSE. She is interested in class mobility and stratification, especially the intergenerational transmission of class privileges among the Chinese new middle class amidst the seemingly contradictory state socialism and market capitalism.

Y

Yimiao Huang

Yimiao Huang is a post-graduate student in MSc Sociology at LSE. She is interested in the digital migration, especially the role of media in migrants' everyday practice; digital feminist activism in China and thinking infrastructure. She loves animal and nature, she speaks Mandarin, Cantonese, English, and Spanish fluently.

Yipeng Wang

Yipeng "Robin" Wang is a MSc Politics and Communication student at LSE. He is interested in global and political communication, in particular in digital pop culture (such as video games and Vtubers) and its potential to facilitate cross-cultural communication and foster social and political change in China.

Participant biographies

Yixuan Liu

Yixuan Liu is a first-year BA Social Anthropology student at LSE.

Yunyan (Doris) Huang

Yunyan Huang is a second-year BSc Sociology student at LSE. She is interested in gender studies, post-colonial studies and their application in Greater China.
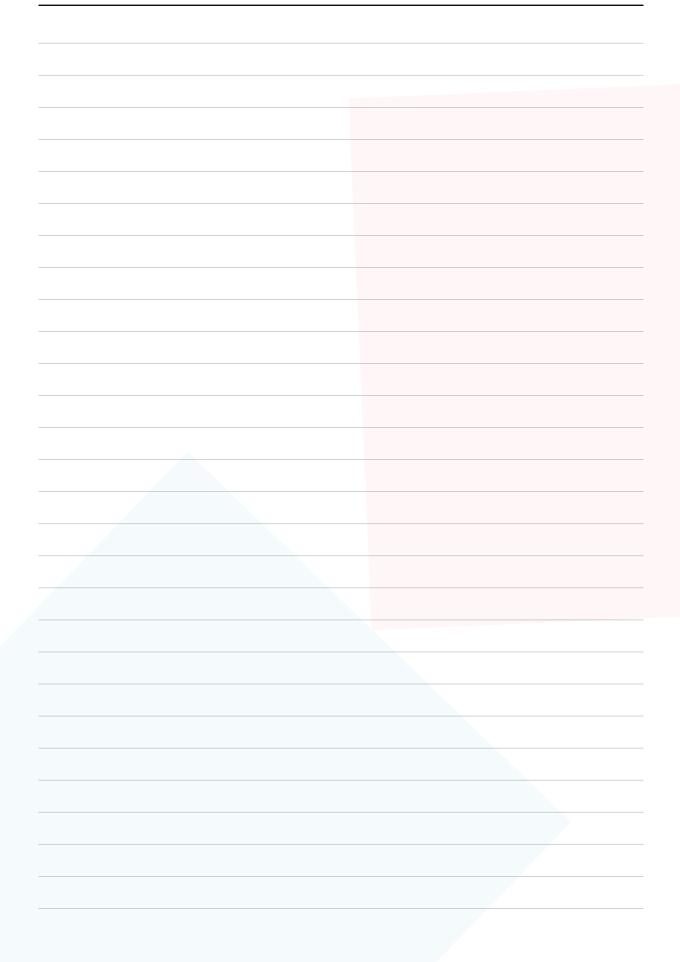
Z

Zhenyi Chen

Zhenyi Chen is a MSc in Political Science (Global Politics) student at LSE. She is interested in Globalisation, Political Economy and Populism, with a regional focus in Europe.

Conference notes

Conference notes