ST GEORGE'S HOUSE

From Polarisation to Collaboration: Rethinking Political Culture

Thursday, 14th – Friday, 15th December 2023

Participant Biographies



Kamal Ahmed

Kamal Ahmed is co-founder and Editor-in-Chief of The News Movement, a new media business focused on social media channels, new audiences and digital consumption.

Between 2018 and 2021, Kamal was Editorial Director of BBC News, working across news strategy, daily news and planning, commissioning, analysis, visual and audio journalism and new forms of digital content. He was a member of the Newsgroup Board and the Sounds board.

Between 2016 and 2018 Kamal was Economics Editor at BBC News, leading economics coverage for the corporation. He joined the BBC in April 2014 as Business Editor from the Telegraph Media Group where he was Executive Business Editor responsible for The Sunday Telegraph's business and economics coverage.

Between 2007 and 2009 Kamal was Group Director, Communications, at the Equality and Human Rights Commission and before that was Executive Editor, News, at The Observer. Between 2000 and 2004, Kamal was Political Editor of The Observer, covering Tony Blair's premiership. He has also worked at The Guardian and Scotland on Sunday.



Sarah Bibi

Sarah Bibi is a Cumberland Lodge fellow currently in the third year of her PhD in Education where she is exploring the impact of education leadership on teacher wellbeing. Sarah is also a trustee of Teach First, an education charity aiming to eliminate the impact of disadvantage in education. Before her academic career, Sarah was an English teacher for seven years and taught in a number of contexts in England and Qatar. During the first two years of her PhD, Sarah was employed as the lead academic researcher with Mulberry Schools Trust in conjunction with Reconnect London and co-authored three reports centred on disadvantage in education, the impact of schooling beyond the classroom and how schools responded to the COVID-19 pandemic. Sarah's professional and academic career are rooted in education, a deeply political institution of society, and continues to pursue opportunities to influence politics to accommodate the needs of teachers and school leaders better and to defend the rights of students who experience disadvantage to have an equal and equitable opportunity to succeed in the education system.



Tom Brake

Tom Brake is the Director of Unlock Democracy which campaigns for democratic reforms in the UK, including for greater transparency and accountability of government and a written constitution.

Previously he was a Member of Parliament in Westminster for over 20 years and a government minister for 3 years. During his time in parliament, he championed extending Freedom of Information. As a Minister he was in the Ministerial team responsible for the Lobbying and Recall of MPs reforms.



Daniel Bruce

Daniel Bruce has been Chief Executive of Transparency International UK since 2019, overseeing work to reveal the scale of global corruption facilitated by professional services in the UK, as well as forensic analysis of Covid-19 procurement. He served as an expert witness to the Committee on Standards in Public Life in 2021 and is a regular media commentator on political integrity. Daniel is an experienced civil society leader with an earlier career as an award-winning broadcast journalist and editor. Before joining TI-UK, Daniel spent nearly 6 years as Chief Executive of Internews.



Professor Melissa Butcher

Professor Melissa Butcher joined Cumberland Lodge in 2023 as Programme Director, responsible for managing the Charity's programme development and implementation. She has over two decades experience leading major programmes and international research projects in the UK, Europe, and Asia, focusing on how we manage cultural change, social conflict, diversity, and inequality. Melissa has held academic posts at Birkbeck, University of London, the Open University, and Trinity College, Dublin, in addition to previous experience in the media, youth work, development education, intercultural consultancy and diversity training. She enjoys collaborating with a range of stakeholders, including youth organisations, artists, NGOs, and the corporate sector, to create education programmes that support social cohesion, conflict reduction, and understanding processes of change.



The Lord Butler of Brockwell, KG, GCB, CVO, PC

Frederick Edward Robin Butler, Baron Butler of Brockwell, KG, GCB, CVO, PC (born 3 January 1938) is a retired British civil servant, now sitting in the House of Lords as a life peer.

He was Private Secretary to Prime Ministers Edward Heath (1972–74) and Harold Wilson (1974–75), and Principal Private Secretary to Margaret Thatcher (1982–85). He was also Cabinet Secretary during the premierships of Margaret Thatcher, John Major and Tony Blair

He became the Master of University College, Oxford in 1998, and was made a life peer as Baron Butler of Brockwell, of Herne Hill in the London Borough of Lambeth in the 1998 New Year Honours List. He was appointed a Knight of the Garter in 2003.

He became a non-executive Director of HSBC Group and ICI plc from 1998 to 2008. He was also Chairman of the HSBC Corporate Sustainability Committee and the HSBC Global Education Trust.

In February 2004 it was announced that Lord Butler of Brockwell would chair an inquiry into the use of intelligence in the lead up to the 2003 Iraq War. His report (widely known as the "Butler Report") concluded that some of the intelligence about Iraq's possession of Weapons of Mass Destruction was seriously flawed.

Sir Vince Cable



Dave Clarke

Dave Clarke is a technology entrepreneur and Founder of Synaptica, an award-winning developer of semantic software solutions that help people organize, categorise, and discover enterprise knowledge. Dave is an international speaker on knowledge systems and semantics, has contributed to various national and international industry standards, and was awarded the Knowledge Management Leadership Award by the Global Knowledge Management Congress. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and former Vice-Chairman of the RSA-US Trustees. Dave has been an Associate of St. George's House Windsor Castle since 1983 and co-curated the 2018 consultation *Democracy in a Post-Truth Information Age*.



Lord Chris Fox

Chris Fox became a peer in 2014. He leads for the Liberal Democrats on Business and Industry he formerly sat on the Science and Technology Select Committee and the Economic Affairs Committee and is now a member of the International Agreements committee that scrutinises trade deals. He is on the executive of the British American Parliamentary Group and is a vice president of the German-British Chamber of Commerce.

Over the past three years he has taken a major role is scrutinizing key elements of Government legislation including: the two Economic Crime Bills, the National Security and Investment Act, the Subsidy Control Act and the Procurement Bill.

He has served on the senior executive teams of three FTSE 100 companies, latterly between 2012 and 2017 on the executive board of global aerospace and automotive company GKN plc. Originally a scientist, Chris went to Imperial College, gaining a BSc in Chemistry. On graduation, he worked as a petroleum industry engineer. Following a year in the nuclear industry, in December 1998 he joined food ingredients manufacturer Tate & Lyle PLC where he served for nearly seven years. After this he was Director of Group Communications with diversified engineer Smiths Group. He also served as Chief Executive for the Liberal democrats when they were in government.



Mike Galsworthy

Mike Galsworthy is Chair of European Movement UK, a cross-party organisation founded by Winston Churchill in the 1940s and a formative force behind the ECHR, EEC and EU. Our current mission is "step by step to rejoin". We have over 21,000 members, 20 staff and 100 local branches. Our President is Lord Heseltine. We believe in cross-party and collaborative politics. I also founded Scientists for EU in 2015. In 2020, I founded the Bylines Network - a set of ten local citizen journalism publications (eg Yorkshire Bylines) around the UK. Our aim at Bylines is the democratic empowerment of citizens, including developing voices of youth and minority/marginalised communities.



Daniel Gerring

Daniel Gerring is a Partner, Head of Pensions, TraDvers Smith LLP**,** *one of the UK's leading full service city law firms*

Expert on pensions, corporate social responsibility, diversity and inclusion. Trustee: JustLikeUs, City YMCA London, Refugees at Home. FT/Outstanding Top 100 LGBT+ Executive worldwide.



Professor Anthony Grayling

Professor Anthony Grayling CBE MA DPhil (Oxon) FRSA FRSL is the Founder and Principal of New College of the Humanities at Northeastern University, and its Professor of Philosophy. He is also a Supernumerary Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford. He is the author of over thirty books of philosophy, biography, history of ideas, and essays. He was for a number of years a columnist on the Guardian, the Times, and Prospect magazine. He has contributed to many leading newspapers in the UK, US and Australia, and to BBC radios 4, 3 and the World Service, for which he did the annual 'Exchanges at the Frontier' series; and he has often appeared on television. He has twice been a judge on the Booker Prize, in 2014 serving as the Chair of the judging panel. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, a Vice President of Humanists UK, Patron of the Defence Humanists, Honorary Associate of the Secular Society, and a Patron of Dignity in Dying.



Lord Dr Michael Hastings CBE

Lord Hastings is the Chairman of the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies & the Professor of Leadership at the Huntsman Business School, USA; he is a Governor of the MPESA Academy in Nairobi and a former Trustee of the Vodafone Group Foundation as well as being the former Global Head of Citizenship at KPMG and before the Head of Public Affairs at the BBC.

Lord Hastings is an Independent Member of the House of Lords – the Upper Chamber of the UK Parliament. As a former teacher, he is now a Director of the National Institute of Teaching and was the recent Chancellor of Regents University London. Lord Hastings is the President of UK Community Foundations and a Vice President of UNICEF.



Darren Hughes

Darren Hughes is chief executive of the Electoral Reform Society. ERS was founded in 1884 as an independent, non-partisan campaign for a fairer voting system using proportional representation. It has expanded its role to also look at wider democratic reforms which might improve the involvement and experience of citizens in politics. ERS has a substantial campaigning, research and communications presence in the democratic sector.

Darren has been CE since 2017. Originally a New Zealander, before moving to the United Kingdom he was a Member of Parliament in NZ's House of Representatives, which 30 years ago decided to use proportional representation.



Faheem Khan

Faheem Khan has been a teacher for 16 years and is the Founding Director of Future Leaders UK, a non-profit youth organisation that empowers young people from underrepresented backgrounds to be politically aware, participate in our political system and engage with citizenship. The year-long leadership programme educates, engages and empowers young people and includes sessions on political and media literacy and how to stand against polarisation and intolerance. Students are also taken on enrichment visits to 10 Downing Street, Parliament and Whitehall to observe our political institutions in action first-hand. The programme is funded by the Home Office and the Mayor of London.



Neal Lawson

Neal Lawson is Executive Director of the good society pressure group Compass and was author of All Consuming (Penguin, 2009) and co-editor of The Progressive Century (Palgrave, 2001). He serves on the Advisory Board of the social democracy journal Renewal which he helped found, is an adviser to public ownership campaigners We Own It, a Commissioner for a Gender Equal Economy and a Senior Fellow at Radix. He writes about politics, democracy and societal transformation on sites such as the Guardian, New Statesman and Prospect magazine. He has worked as a trade union researcher, an advisor to former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown and set up and ran a communications company. Neal has been described by the late Zygmunt Bauman as "one of the most insightful and inventive minds on the British political stage", in the Guardian as "the most optimistic commentator in western Europe" and as the "Eeyore of the left" in the Sunday Times.



Professor Juergen Maier, CBE

Juergen Maier is Chair of the Digital Catapult, is the co-founder of vocL – a platform for responsible business voices, and is Vice-Chair of the Northern Powerhouse Partnership where he supports the drive for the green re-industrialisation of the North of England. He advises tech start-up and scale-up businesses which are a key part of the industrial ecosystem creating the green 4th Industrial revolution. In that capacity Juergen advises the Welsh hydrogen car company Riversimple.

Juergen is the former Chief Executive of Siemens UK. A position he held from July 2014 to December 2019. Over his 33 year career with Siemens he held a number of senior roles within Siemens in the UK and Germany.

Juergen joined Siemens in 1986 as a graduate engineer with a BSc in production engineering from Nottingham Trent University, on a Siemens-sponsored graduate programme. He is now an honorary Professor at Nottingham Trent University at the University of Manchester and at Manchester Metropolitan Univeristy. He became a Fellow of the Royal Society in May 2022 and a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in September 2017. Juergen has also received honorary doctorates for his services to UK Science and Engineering from the Universities of Lincoln, Nottingham Trent, Salford Manchester, Cranfield, Sheffield, Hull, Lancaster and Manchester Metropolitan. Juergen was awarded a Fellowship of the City & Guilds Institute in 2020, in recognition of skills development support for technical apprenticeships and workplace upskilling for 4th Industrial Revolution technologies.



Ms Siobhan McShane

Siobhan was an Intern at St George's House from 2018-2019. She has returned to act as Rapporteur for a number of consultations since then. She currently works as Unaccompanied Asylum Seeker Officer and Higher Education Officer for Lewisham Virtual School.



Jennifer Nadel

Jennifer Nadel is the co-director of the UK based cross-party think tank, Compassion in Politics which works with 100+ UK politicians from across the political spectrum. She's also the Director of Compassionate Politics at Stanford University's Centre for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education and advises globally on compassionate interventions. A barrister, author, strategist and award-winning television journalist (ex BBC, Channel Four News and ITN), her most recent book, co-edited with Matt Hawkins How Compassion can Transform our Politics, Economy and Society, has been hailed as a guide to creating a more compassionate world.

Having worked in and around Westminster for 35 years, her work in the UK focuses on interventions to improve political process so that its outcomes are better able to address the complex and interrelated problems that cause avoidable suffering, particularly to those who are most vulnerable.

Compassion in Politics research on public attitudes to political conduct is cited in the media and in parliament. Their petition in support of legislation to prevent deliberate misrepresentation in politics has 200,000 + signatures and has resulted in two bills. They also focus on enforceable and reformed codes of conduct, reform to the whipping system, manner of debate and PMQ's to reduce conflict and increase collaboration and co-operation. They provide compassionate leadership and resilience training for those working in the political space.



John O'Brien MBE

John O'Brien is Managing Partner of a group of PR and marketing agencies at Omnicom; is a bestselling business author with thirty years' experience leading organisations in over twenty countries. He is also founder of Anthropy, the national gathering on the future of Britain.

John's path started in banking, then as an Infantry officer, retiring as a Captain in 1994 after a decades service. He spent 17 years in roles for the then Prince of Wales and his charitable interests, built one of the UK's first ethical purpose agencies and has been a trustee of a variety of charities. John splits his time between Shropshire and London.



Jonny Palmer MBE

Jonny Palmer is a RAF Pilot, Charitable Trustee, Company Director and Representative to the Church of England's General Synod.

A seasoned military officer dedicated to serving military facing charities and Company Director driven to provide high-quality homes for low-income families. MBE



Professor Helen Pankhurst CBE

Professor Helen Pankhurst CBE is an international development and women's rights advisor to CARE International – mainly in Ethiopia and the UK. She is a Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University and Chancellor of the University of Suffolk and holds honorary doctorates from Edge Hill University and the University of Manchester.

The granddaughter of Sylvia, great-granddaughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, Helen carries on the legacy e.g. in the Opening Ceremony of the 2012 London Olympics, advising on the film *Suffragette*, convening Centenary Action and GM4Women2028. Publications include: *Deeds Not Words, the Story of Women's Rights, Then and Now* (2018).



Air Chief Marshal The Lord Stuart Peach, GBE KCB DL

Air Chief Marshal The Lord Peach (Stuart) GBE KCB DL is the UK Prime Minister's Special Envoy to the Western Balkans.

A Cross Bench peer in the House of Lords he is a former Chair of NATO's Military Committee and former Chair of the Imperial War Museum.

Former Chief of Defence Staff (UK), Vice Chief of Defence Staff and the inaugural Commander of Joint Forces Command.

He is a Deputy Lieutenant of Lincolnshire.



Ben Roome

Appointed 2013. A Board Director and CEO passionate about information networks and services and their impact on society. Previously with Nokia



Professor Meg Russell FBA

Professor Meg Russell FBA is Director of the Constitution Unit at University College London. She has written on various aspects of politics and the constitution, but is a particular specialist on parliament. Her latest book (with Lisa James, March 2023) is *The Parliamentary Battle over Brexit*, which considers the challenges to political culture as well as parliamentary procedure created by the Brexit referendum. She has also recently collaborated on the Independent Commission on Referendums and the Democracy in the UK after Brexit projects, led by her colleague Alan Renwick, and leads the Constitutional Principles and the Health of Democracy project.



David Starkey

David Starkey is one of Britain's leading historians. He is the author of many books; has guest-curated several major historical exhibitions and made some of the most important and widely watched historical documentary series on TV. He was Fellow of the Royal Historical Society and the Society of Antiquaries; Honorary Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge; Hon. D. Litt. of the Universities of Buckingham, Kent and Lancaster; Visiting Professor at Buckingham, Kent and Christ Church Canterbury; Trustee and Hon. Commodore of the Mary Rose; Hon. Commodore of the National Maritime Museum, Norton Medlicott Medalist for services to History presented by the Historical Association and Member of the Editorial Board of History etc. etc, all of which were "cancelled" in 2020. He is winner of the W. H. Smith Prize for Biography, Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Barbers, columnist on The Critic and was made a CBE in 2007. He will be launching his own YouTube Channel, "David Starkey Talks", in late October 2021.



Matthew Taylor

Matthew Taylor joined the NHS Confederation as its chief executive in June 2021, having been chief executive of the Royal Society for Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) for 15 years. During his tenure, Matthew transformed the RSA into a global institution, with 30,000 fellows and a high profile and influential research programme.

Before the RSA, Matthew was chief adviser on political strategy to Prime Minister Tony Blair and he also ran the Institute for Public Policy Research for 5 years. He is a widely known commentator on policy, politics and public service reform and regularly appears on national media programmes, including as a panellist on BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze. He was series editor for the Thames and Hudson '*Big Ideas'* books and his own book '*Do we need to work?*' was published in 2021. He was commissioned by the Conservative government in 2016 to carry out an independent review into modern employment practices. Matthew presents the podcast series '*Health on the Line'* (for NHS Confederation) and '*Forward Thinking'* (for the Forward Institute). He tweets @ConfedMatthew



Sarah Walker-Smith

Sarah Walker-Smith is CEO of professional services group Ampa and law firm Shakespeare Martineau, which is part of the group. Ampa is the largest professional services B-Corp in the world. Sarah was the first female non-lawyer CEO in the legal top 50 and was recently named as the UK's most influential legal leader on social media. Sarah is also a Chartered Accountant, Chartered Director and an MBA.

Sarah is a former governor at Nottingham Trent University, is a founding associate of VocL, a board advisor to Anthropy and is a member of the Society of Leadership Fellows at St George's House.



Hannah White

Hannah White is Director of the Institute for Government. She leads the Institute's work to make government more effective.

Hannah is a regular commentator on the radio and television – including BBC television and radio, ITV, Channel 4, Sky News, Times Radio, and international broadcasters – and writes regularly for a wide range of print media – including the Telegraph, Guardian and the Times. She hosts the Institute's weekly Insider Briefing podcast.

Hannah has a PhD in Human Geography. She started her career as a parliamentary clerk in the House of Commons, working on select and legislative committees and advising on parliamentary procedure. In 2012 she left parliament to become Secretary to the Committee on Standards in Public Life in the Cabinet Office. Hannah joined the Institute in 2014 and was appointed Director in October 2022.

Hannah also serves as deputy chair of trustees for the public participation and deliberation charity Involve. She received an OBE in the 2020 Birthday Honours for services to the constitution, and in April 2022 she published her first book Held in Contempt: what's wrong with the House of Commons?