

Democracy and Free Speech on Campus: Theory and Practice

Monday, 5th – Tuesday, 6th February 2024

Participants' Biographies



Ms Nina Arif

Nina is a freelance journalist who completed her MSc in International Politics at SOAS University in 2019. She has written for the international journal *Critical Hermeneutics* on How the British Media Dehumanises Migrants in the Context of the Syrian Civil War. Nina has produced work for various media outlets including the BBC, Al Jazeera and Middle East Eye. She also produced video features for BBC Arabic while living and working in the Middle East for eight years. She currently works with SOAS ICOP where she organises events on issue such as journalism and free speech, among other things.



Professor Eddie Bruce-Jones

Eddie Bruce-Jones is Professor of Law and Head of the School of Law, Gender and Media at SOAS, University of London. Bruce-Jones is Associate Academic Fellow of the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple and member of the New York Bar. Bruce-Jones is author of *Race in the Shadow of Law: State Violence in Contemporary Europe* and has published in the areas of racial equality, migration law, and he works across the disciplines of law, anthropology and literature. He serves on the Academic Council of the German Discrimination and Racism Monitor at the German Center for Research on Migration. He has served on expert consultation panels for the UN OHCHR and the Equality Committee of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.



Professor Andrea Cornwall

Andrea is Professor of Global Development and Anthropology in the Department of International Development at King's College London, where she works on the state of democracy and the trouble with 'gender'. Formerly Pro-Director Research & Enterprise at SOAS, University of London, she was also Head of the School of Global Studies at the University of Sussex, both contexts in which there are strongly held convictions amongst staff and students in relation to freedom of speech and dissent. She has a long-standing interest in methodologies for democratic deliberation and inclusion, and in how to facilitate discussion amongst people with entrenched, apparently irreconcilable beliefs.



Professor Emma Crewe

Emma is a Research Professor at SOAS, University of London and a Research Supervisor at the University of Hertfordshire in the field of management. She has taught anthropology at Sussex University and SOAS and worked for international development NGOs. Her research focuses on parliaments globally. She has published ethnographies on [development](#) (with E. A Harrison), [House of Lords](#), [House of Commons](#), the [expenses scandal](#) (with A. Walker), and the [Anthropology of Parliaments](#). She is Director of the [Global Research Network on Parliaments and People](#), giving grants to scholars in the Global South and co-ordinating a coalition researching democracy in Brazil, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, the UK and the US. She is Deputy Chair of the Study of Parliament Group.



Ms Sanjana Deen

Sanjana is a former vocational lecturer and freelance journalist, informed by her work with NGO and government initiatives to increase female visibility in the workplace in the Middle East, Bangladesh and the UK. She has produced work for the BBC Asian Network, among other media outlets. Sanjana is part of ICOP's Secretariat for the APPG on Communities of Inquiry Across the Generations, which seeks to increase dialogue on various parliamentary bills and policy areas. She is also a trustee of Kijana Kwanza (Young People First), a charity working with youth in Tanzania. Sanjana holds a bachelors in Economics and History from SOAS and was awarded an Aziz Foundation Scholarship to complete a masters in Global Public Policy.



Mr Jim Dickinson

Jim is an Associate Editor at Wonkhe and takes a particular interest in student experience, university governance, and regulation – and leads our work with students' unions.

His career background is in support for student leadership. He has held senior roles at the National Union of Students – where he led on SU development, campaigns and political strategy – and was the CEO at the SU at UEA, providing strategic management for the union's charitable and commercial vehicles as well as policy support for the elected student officers.

Jim has served as a governor and trustee in both further and higher education and the voluntary sector, and is a regular speaker at sector events and conferences. He is a fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts, an obsessive fan of the Eurovision Song Contest, and dreams of visiting Moldova.



Ms Basma Doukhi

Basma is a Palestinian human rights activist. She has been active in humanitarian and development work with displaced people in the past 12 years through community outreach and mobilization, advocacy, protection from sexual and gender-based violence, and child protection. Basma has presented in several international conferences around the world on refugees' protection, migration, displacement, and gender equality. Basma received a full scholarship from the University of Kent in the U.K. to complete a PhD in migration studies focused on global south refugee-led responses in humanitarian action. She holds a master's degree in development and emergency practice at Oxford Brookes University. She is dedicated and passionate about refugee protection, humanitarian action, advocacy, campaigning, and community outreach.



Professor Bobby Duffy

Bobby is Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Policy Institute. He has worked across most public policy areas in his career of 30 years in policy research and evaluation, including being seconded to the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit.

Bobby sits on several advisory boards including Chairing both the Campaign for Social Science and the CLOSER Advisory Board. His first book, [The Perils of Perception – Why we're wrong about nearly everything](#) draws on a set of global studies on how people misperceive key social realities. His latest book, [Generations - Does when you're born shape who you are?](#), came out in September 2021 and challenges myths and stereotypes around generational trends, seeking a greater understanding around generational challenges.



Professor Adam Habib

Adam is an academic, researcher, activist, administrator, and well-known public intellectual. A Professor of Political Science, Adam has over 30 years of academic, research and administration expertise, spanning five universities and multiple local and international institutions.

Prior to his current appointment as Director of SOAS, Adam was Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the [University of the Witwatersrand \(Wits\)](#) in Johannesburg, South Africa between 2013 and 2020 and also served as Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Research at the University of Johannesburg, Executive Director of Democracy & Governance at the Human Science Research Council and director of the Centre for Civil Society and Professor of Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Adam is widely published, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and served as a fellow of both the African Academy of Science and the Academy of Science of South Africa. He also serves on the Council of the United Nations University.



Ms Sali Hafez

Sali is a health systems researcher and global health specialist who worked extensively on health systems in fragile states and low and middle-income countries, focusing on the intersection of health, gender, and protection. She is currently a doctoral candidate at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Her research evaluates the effectiveness of health service delivery amid the transition from the humanitarian to the development phase, in post-conflict settings.

Before that, she led multi-country humanitarian response and research in over 15 countries, including Liberia, Lebanon, Libya, Uganda, Kenya, Egypt, Iraq, Djibouti, Bangladesh, Sudan, Yemen, South Sudan and Jordan, with UN agencies and INGOs like the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. She is part of different social movements, most notably the Arab Coalition for Population and Development, the Post-2015 Global Advocacy Group, Decolonisation of Global Health Working Group and Women in Global Health Egypt Chapter Leadership.



Lord Dr Michael Hastings, CBE

Michael 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.

Michael 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. He is the President of UK Community Foundations and a Vice President of UNICEF.



Miss Haleema Hijazi

Haleema is a third-year undergraduate student in Politics and International Relations. As a student she established the student union ICOP society and runs it with other students. In 2023, she joined ICOP as a Research Assistant with a particular remit to increase student engagement with ICOP's events in Parliament and at SOAS, and with ICOP policy briefings and activism.



Mr Nick Hillman

Nick has been the Director of HEPI since 2014. He worked for the Rt Hon David Willetts MP (now Lord Willetts), the Minister for Universities and Science, from 2007 until the end of 2013, as Chief of Staff and then Special Adviser in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills. Previously, he was a History teacher and worked at the Association of British Insurers. At the 2010 general election, he was the runner-up in Cambridge.

Nick's recent research for HEPI includes papers on [the sixtieth anniversary of the Robbins Report of 1963](#), the [Graduate Route visa](#) and [free speech](#).

Nick has written for a range of think tanks and journals. His journal articles include pieces on the Coalition's higher education reforms for the [Oxford Review of Education](#), on access to schools and selective universities for [Higher Education Review](#) and on the fifty-year history of student loans for [Contemporary British History](#). He also wrote the authoritative account of being a special adviser for the [Institute of Government](#).

In 2020/21, Nick was shortlisted for the first *Prospect* magazine Think Tanker of the Year Award. He is an Honorary Fellow of both Queen Mary University of London (2016) and the National Conference of University Professors (2022) and also a Companion of the British Academy of Management (2022).

He is currently a governor of the University of Manchester and the University of Buckingham as well as a Trustee of the National Foundation for Educational Research.



Professor John Holmwood

John is Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Nottingham. He is the author (with Therese O'Toole) of *Countering Extremism in British Schools? The Truth about the Birmingham Trojan Horse Affair* (Policy Press, 2018) and (with Gurminder K. Bhambra) *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory* (Polity, 2021). Together with Dr Layla Aitlhadj, he is the co-Director of The People's Review of Prevent and their recent reports, [The People's Review of Prevent](#) and the [Response to the Shawcross Report](#).



Mr Thabo Huntgeburth

Thabo is a PhD Student for political economy at SOAS's Department of Economics, researching the impact of grassroots democratic institutions on the success of employee managed cooperatives. His areas of expertise comprise democratic theory, deliberative approaches to politics, and the interactions of socio-economic groups with political institutions. At SOAS, Thabo was engaged in advocating against policy that creates anti-democratic effects in academia and society more generally.



Miss Duaa Jamal Karim

Academically, Duaa is a Doctoral Candidate at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge. Her research interests revolve around examining the influence of educational and social policy on the lives of British Muslims. Her research aims to develop an understanding of how governmentality is enacted through policy within minority communities. Professionally, she is a Qualified Accountant and Legal Consultant. She served as the Chair of Governors in a public school for eight years, further contributing to her insight into educational governance and policy implementation.



Ms Smita Jamdar

Smita is Partner and Head of Education at Shakespeare Martineau LLP and a specialist in higher education law. She is relationship partner for the firm's 60 university clients and advises many of them on issues relating to freedom of speech and academic freedom. She was involved in sector lobbying for changes to the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) Act, and gave evidence to the Parliamentary Bill Committee. She has recently supported Universities UK in the production of its guidance to the sector on preparing for the implementation of the Act. She speaks regularly on the legal framework governing freedom of speech on university campuses.



Professor Shitij Kapur

Shitij is the Vice-Chancellor & President of King's College London. He returned to lead King's in June 2021, following more than four years at the University of Melbourne, where he was Dean and Assistant Vice Chancellor (Health) for the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and interim Deputy Vice Chancellor (International).

Shitij is well known at King's having previously served, between 2007 to 2016, as Assistant Principal (Academic Performance), Dean and Head of School for the Institute of Psychiatry and the founding Executive Dean of the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN).

Shitij is a member of the College Council and also serves on the Governance and Nominations Committee, the Estates Strategy Committee, the Finance Committee, the Investment Subcommittee, the Governance & Nominations Committee, the Chairs' Committee and the Fellowships & Honorary Degrees Committee. In June 2023 Shitij joined the Chair Universities UK's (UUK) Free Speech & Academic Freedom Advisory Group.

Mr Sam Leith



Sam is the literary editor of the *Spectator* and the author of *You Talkin' To Me?: Rhetoric from Aristotle to Trump... and Beyond*. His new book, *The Haunted Wood: A History of Childhood Reading*, comes out in 2024.



Miss Lottie Moore

Lottie is Head of Biology Matter and Equality and Identity at Policy Exchange. She is also Head of Policy at The Other Half, a new thinktank which specialises in common sense feminism in the practical interests of women. She wrote the reports *Asleep at the Wheel* and *Levelling the Playing Field*, which call for a safeguarding first approach to issues on sex and gender. Previously, she worked as a research assistant for Influencing the Corridors of Power at SOAS, and in health equity research at UCL. She has a Master's in Society and Belief from Oxford and an undergraduate degree in Theology from Bristol.



Ms Rana Osman

Rana is a doctoral candidate in the School of Law at SOAS University of London. Her research focuses on the socio-legal implications of "justice" in Islamic political theory, particularly after Egypt's 2011 uprisings. Rana began working with ICOP as a policy research assistant in 2021, a position that combines rigorous evidence-based research and effective policy engagement via digital communication, to support our mission to influence policy and enact meaningful change. As a graduate teaching assistant in Islamic legal theory and law, she has also served as an Academic Tutor since 2021. Rana holds a BS in Criminal Justice and Political Science from Virginia Commonwealth University, an MA in Islamic Law, and an MA in Middle East and Islamic Studies from George Mason University.



Mr Hasan Pandor

Based at SOAS University of London, Hasan is currently working on the AHRC-funded 'New everyday practices of free speech on campus: Beyond racialised and religious stereotypes' project and the 'Influencing the Corridors of Power' project. He recently worked as a researcher and copy editor for 'Paul Ricoeur: Empowering Education, Politics and Society' (2023) and has co-authored reports, a book chapter, briefings and articles. A former language instructor, he also works for British Council and International House as an examiner, and with the Quality Assurance Team for the former.



Professor Alison Scott-Baumann

Alison is Professor of Society and Belief in the Law, Media and Gender Studies department at SOAS, University of London. She team-managed SOAS's recent very successful REF impact submission. Her work represents a clear paradigm shift in British parliamentary relations with Higher Education by supporting knowledge creation between mainstream universities and Westminster. Her HEIF funded research team and Alison have developed a project with blog (Influencing the Corridors of Power (ICOP)) that communicates influential one-page briefings to each member of both Houses of Parliament on urgent topics, written by experts from SOAS, from law firms and from medical experts <https://blogs.soas.ac.uk/cop/>.

On 11 July 2022 they launched an **All-party Parliamentary Group (APPG)** in the House of Commons. Members include Bell Ribeiro-Addy, Sir Peter Bottomley, David Davis, John McDonnell, Lord Balfe. They run live and online sessions on urgent topics with experts and support parliamentarians of all parties, with good student society involvement.

Alison is leading an AHRC project on 'communities of inquiry'; helping students and staff to discuss live topics and avoid no-platforming and the chilling effect that disrupts university life.



Dr Michael Spence AC

Michael joined UCL as President & Provost in January 2021, joining the university from the University of Sydney where he was Vice-Chancellor from 2008 to 2020.

Since arriving, he has led a year-long university-wide consultation to develop the [UCL Strategic Plan 2022-27](#), which sets out UCL's priorities and ambitions for the next five years.

In his first years at UCL, he has led the university through the complexities of reopening campus following the end of Covid lockdowns and the transition from online back to in-person learning for a global community.

As a long-standing proponent of universities as crucibles for debate and dialogue, he has established himself as a leading voice within the UK and beyond promoting the art of 'disagreeing well', and is spearheading a new programme of activities shortly to launch at UCL which will explore approaches to developing the skill of constructive debate around challenging issues.

In 2017, Michael was named a Companion of the Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the higher education sector and in 2018 he was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of New South Wales.



Dr Ian Stanton

Ian leads the Public Policy, Security, and Rights team within the Arts and Humanities Research Council, part of UK Research and Innovation. He has responsibility for AHRC's major investments in the public policy remit such as the Modern Slavery Policy and Evidence Centre, as well as conflict and security research in the UK and overseas. This includes programmes within 'Building a Secure and Resilient World', one of the 5 UKRI Strategic Themes. He previously had responsibility for AHRC's International Development portfolio, delivering programmes under the Global Challenges Research Fund and Newton Fund.



Dr Julia Stolyar

Julia completed her PhD at SOAS, University of London. Her area of research is film and television, predominantly in East Asia, and her analysis focused on transnational media flows between Japan and South Korea exploring how transnational remakes negotiate national identities.

She has been working in both formal and informal education for 16 years, teaching various age groups from elementary school to university students in areas of language, art, culture, media, and academic skills.

She has worked with Prof. Alison Scott-Baumann on her Community of Inquiry project and is currently writing a book chapter for her edited volume on how to foster free speech on campus.

Ms Haleema Stone

Haleema is a 2nd year undergraduate Student studying Religion and Politics at KCL. Within her degree, democracy and free speech are often discussed, and she hopes to share the views of students within the consultation, specifically on how these concepts currently apply to campus life, and how they can be improved.



Professor Adam Sutcliffe

Adam is Professor of European History at King's College London, where he has taught since 2005. He previously taught at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and has held fellowships at the Institute of Advanced Study in Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Leipzig. He is the author, most recently, of *What Are Jews For?* (Princeton, 2020), and the co-editor of *The Past in the Present: History, Memory and Public Life* (Routledge, 2018) and *The Cambridge History of Judaism: The Early Modern World, 1500-1815* (Cambridge, 2018).



Rt Hon. Lord David Willetts

David is the President of the Resolution Foundation and Chair of the UK Space Agency. He is a member of the Board of Darktrace plc and is Chair of Innovate Cambridge. He served as the Member of Parliament for Havant (1992-2015), as Minister for Universities and Science (2010-2014) and previously worked at HM Treasury and the No. 10 Policy Unit. His book "A University Education" is published by Oxford University Press. A second edition of his book "The Pinch" on fairness between the generations was published in 2019.



Dr Saiyyidah Zaidi

Saiyyidah has three strands to her practice: she works with CEOs, senior leaders and their teams, as an advisor, mirror and sounding board; she trains senior leaders to become coaches; and she is an independent researcher in practical theology.

In all her work Saiyyidah uses conversation as a methodology. Stemming from her [research](#) and lived experience, Saiyyidah has a particular interest in helping individuals and organisations to develop impact and influence through exploring identity, culture, and belonging.

Saiyyidah is a qualified Architect, has two Masters degrees in Construction Economics and Management and Applied Positive Psychology, and a PhD in Practical Theology/Critical Studies. She is an European Mentoring and Coaching Council Master Coach, a Faculty Member and Tutor with Meyler Campbell, and a Partner with Altair, a next generation leadership advisory firm.

Outside work and home, Saiyyidah enjoys cinema, travel, and experiencing new things. Saiyyidah lives in London with her husband, two young adult children and Tiger the cat.