

POLIS alumni - January 2019

Dear alumni,

Welcome to the January edition of your POLIS alumni newsletter.



Thank you, as always, for your feedback from the previous edition. We love to hear your news so, if you would like to get in touch, please [email us](#).

You can connect with POLIS via our [website](#), on [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#) or [Instagram](#). For our video content, head over to [YouTube](#).

Yours,

Andy Cuthbert,
Alumni Relations Co-ordinator

Dr Lauren Wilcox wins prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize



The Department of Politics and International Studies is delighted to congratulate Dr Lauren Wilcox, on winning a prestigious Philip Leverhulme Prize. This prize is an early career award for UK-based academics that honours researchers whose future career is seen as 'exceptionally promising' and whose work has already attracted international recognition. Prize winners receive an award of £100,000 in research funding over two or three years. Dr Wilcox's prize is in the field of Politics and International Relations; eligible fields rotate each year with 30 total prizes awarded.

[Read more](#)

Inaugural Joffe Award Winner Announced

The Department of POLIS is delighted to announce that the Joffé Award for 2017-2018 has been presented to **Ibrahim Khan**, for his dissertation entitled 'Rethinking Islam and Human Rights'.

The Joffé Award is presented each year to the student writing the best MPhil dissertation on the international relations and/or politics of the Middle East and North Africa. It is named for Professor George Joffé who, for many years, was the backbone of teaching on North Africa and the Middle East in the Centre for International Studies, and later in POLIS. George retired at the end of the 2016/17 academical year and the Department has created this prize as a tribute to his intellectual legacy.

Ibrahim had the following to say on his work and the award:

"My dissertation explores the extensive literature that has emerged since the 1970s on the relationship between Islam and human rights. The study examines the specific historical conditions that made a reconciliation between the two constructs necessary and urgent for disparate thinkers, and it investigates the contemporary politics of this discourse.... I am honored to have received the inaugural Joffé Award. The prize has encouraged me to think further about the topics raised in the dissertation and has affirmed for me the importance of continued critical scholarship on the politics of the Middle East and North Africa. I am grateful for the award and for the educational opportunities at POLIS that made my research possible, and I hope that the dissertation serves as a small step toward honoring the enormous scholarly legacy of Professor George Joffé."

Many congratulations to Ibrahim, and to all of his MPhil cohort on their hard work this year.

MPhil Careers Day – January 2019

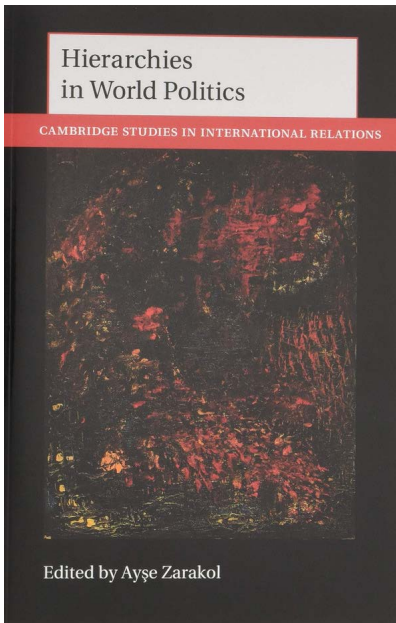
On Friday 25 January we held the third postgraduate careers day. Current MPhil students heard from alumni about entering fields such as media and journalism, law, the Civil Service, research and consultancy, and the development and human rights sector.

Thank you very much to all our alumni who spoke on the day. If anyone would be interested in being involved in future events, please contact us on alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk as we'd love to hear from you!

The full roster of speakers can be viewed [here](#).



Get in touch



Dr Zarakol's book wins recognition from ISA Theory section

Dr Zarakol's edited volume, *Hierarchies in World Politics*, has been named runner up for the 2019 ISA Theory section prize for edited volumes and journal special issues. The prize certificate will be presented at the 2019 ISA Convention in Toronto. Prof Sharman is also a contributor to this volume.

Would you like to appear in our Spotlight feature?

If you'd like to be featured in next issue's Spotlight, please [email Andy](#). The Spotlight is a guest article written by a former POLIS student, of between 800 and 1,200 words. Your article should include information about your time at Cambridge, your work now and the link between the two (if any!)

If you need inspiration, more examples of Spotlight articles can be found [on our website](#).

Latest podcasts

137 | Talking Politics guide to ... Existential Risk | 9 January

David talks to Martin Rees about how we should evaluate the greatest threats facing the human species in the twenty-first century. Does the biggest danger come from bio-terror or bio-error, climate change, nuclear war or AI? And what prospects does space travel provide for a post-human future?



Listen

136 | Talking Politics guide to ... Bretton Woods | 7 January

David talks to Helen Thompson about the economic order that was created in the

aftermath of the Second World War. What was agreed at Bretton Woods, how did it work, why did it eventually fail, and can any of it be revived?

[Read more](#)



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