

POLIS alumni - May 2020

Dear alumni,

Welcome to the May 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](#), or [Instagram](#). For our video content, head over to [YouTube](#).

Yours,

Andy Cuthbert,
Alumni Relations Co-ordinator

MPP candidate awarded 2020-21 Kanders Churchill Scholarship

Congratulations to **Thomas Freitag**, who has received the Kanders Churchill Scholarship for his 2020/21 Master of Public Policy programme.

The Churchill Scholarship and Kanders Churchill Scholarship are for one year of Master's study at Churchill College, Cambridge. The awards cover full tuition, a stipend, travel costs, and the chance to apply for a \$2,000 special research grant.

Honorary Professorship

Prof John Dunn, Emeritus Professor at the Department of POLIS, has recently been made an Honorary Professor of Renmin University in Beijing, China.

The Centre for Geopolitics explores the COVID-19 pandemic

The Centre for Geopolitics is an independent research centre within POLIS. The Centre's mission is to confront the major problems of world order, past, present and future. By applying historical analysis, political science and the experience of practitioners to the world's most pressing geopolitical challenges, we offer a deeper understanding of where these challenges have come from, how they may develop and how they might be resolved.

Like the rest of the world, we've had to change our way of working in response to the pandemic and we're striving for an interdisciplinary approach as we consider how the world order will be changed by the current crisis.

A few weeks after lockdown began, we launched a ['conversations' website](#), to explore the likely geopolitical impact of the

crisis. We are bringing together leading academics from a variety of disciplines to discuss a wide variety of topics including China's role in the world, the future of the EU, the pandemic's impact on conflict, what past pandemics can tell us about the impact on world order, and the obstacles and opportunities of states using historical memory in the COVID-19 era.

The Centre has also launched a programme of online discussion panels addressing similar issues, which give our audience the opportunity to ask questions in real-time. Recordings of recent panels and details of upcoming panels can be found on [our website](#).

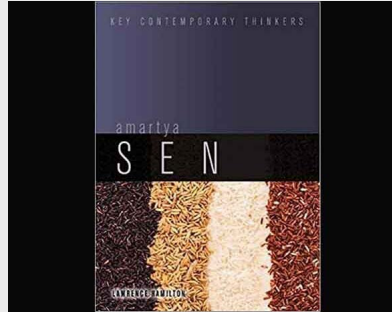
In addition to one-off discussions on various topics related to the geopolitical fallout from the pandemic, we are organising a [weekly panel on Responsibility to Protect \(R2P\)](#) and key issues arising as a result of COVID-19.

A summary of the Centre for Geopolitics' work in response to the COVID-19 crisis can be found on [our website](#). We'd be delighted for alumni to get in touch and join in the conversation with us.

New publications from POLIS faculty

Lawrence Hamilton,
Amartya Sen

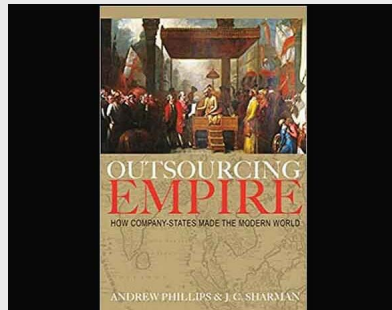
Amartya Sen is a major work on one of the most influential economists and philosophers of the last couple of centuries. It will be invaluable to students and scholars across the humanities and social sciences and an excellent guide for policy makers, legislators and global activists..



[View on Amazon](#)

Jason Sharman, *Outsourcing Empire: How Company-States Made the Modern World*

Andrew Phillips and J C Sharman explain the rise and fall of company-states, why some succeeded while others failed, and their role as vanguards of capitalism and imperialism. In dealing with alien civilisations to the East and West, Europeans relied primarily on company-states to mediate geographic and cultural distances in trade and diplomacy. Emerging as improvised solutions to bridge the gap between European rulers' expansive geopolitical ambitions and their scarce means, company-states succeeded best where they could balance the twin imperatives of power and profit.



[View on Amazon](#)

New publications from POLIS alumni

In Whom We Trust

December 2019 sees the publication of the historical-political novel *In Whom We Trust*, written by an alumnus under the pseudonym Howard Pastel. *In Whom We Trust* traces the lives of three Cambridge University graduates — one American, one English and one Iranian— whose intimate friendship is severely tested over the years by conflicting career paths in a rapidly modernising world, where battle lines are often as blurred as the governmental policies that put them there. This remarkable story is a mixture of political and religious intrigue set against a backdrop of historical events from the 1950s to the present.

Verlan Lewis

Verlan Lewis, postdoctoral scholar in the Stanford University Department of Political Science and POLIS alumnus, is pleased to announce his latest article entitled 'The Problem of Donald Trump and the Static Spectrum Fallacy', published in the journal *Party Politics* (Sept 2019).

David Blunt

Dr David Blunt, Lecturer in International Politics at City, University of London is pleased to announce the publication of his new book: *Global Poverty, Injustice and Resistance* (CUP, 2019). The origins of this book project can be traced back to the Leverhulme Early Career Fellowship that Dr Blunt held at the Department of POLIS from 2014 to 2017. It argues that resistance is a human right and that global poverty is sufficiently unjust to warrant resistance from those living in poverty.

Henry Rome

MPhil alumnus Henry Rome (2017) is proud to announce that his MPhil dissertation entitled 'United States Iran Policy and the Role of Israel (1990–1993)' was recently published in the journal *Diplomacy & Statecraft* (Vol 30, 2019).

Jemma Wayne

June 2020 will see the publication of a new novel from SPS graduate and Women's Prize longlisted author Jemma Wayne. The novel *To Dare* touches on the various political and social themes of class, power and gender.

Would you like to appear in our spotlight feature?

If you'd like to be featured in our alumni spotlight feature, please [email Andy](#). The spotlight is an 800–1,200 word guest article written by a former POLIS student. Your article should include information about your time at Cambridge, your work now and, if possible, the link between the two.

For inspiration, previous spotlight features are [on our website >](#)

Selected episodes from Talking Politics

244 | Labour and Brexit: Beyond the Crisis

14 May 2020

David is joined by Helen Thompson and Chris Brooke to try to get beyond the current crisis and work out where British politics is heading. How different is Starmer's political programme likely to be from Corbyn's? Can the Labour party become the party of the workers again? And is Brexit really going to happen without an extension and without a deal? Plus we explore the renewed influence of the trade unions and ask what it means for the political choices ahead.



[Listen now](#)

243 | Ebola, COVID and the WHO

07 May 2020

David and Helen talk this week with Amy Maxmen, senior reporter at *Nature*. Amy has covered the Ebola epidemic in Western Africa and now COVID-19 in the USA. Does she see comparisons between the two? What explains the failures of the US response? Can the World Health Organization still make a difference? Plus we explore the implications of the growing politicisation of science. When did data become so divisive?



[Listen now](#)

Our campaign for the University and Colleges of Cambridge is raising funds to attract the brightest minds, create the finest facilities and give the freedom to create more world-changing ideas. To do this, we need your help.

Dear World...
Yours,
Cambridge



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