

## POLIS alumni - September 2018

Dear POLIS alumnus/na,

Welcome to the latest 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

### **Prof David Runciman elected to British Academy Fellowship**

Prof David Runciman of POLIS is one of six Cambridge academics that have been elected Fellows of the prestigious British Academy for the humanities and social sciences. This body is a community of over 1400 of the leading minds that make up the UK's national academy for the humanities and social sciences. Current Fellows include the classicist Dame Mary Beard, the historian Sir Simon Schama and philosopher Baroness Onora O'Neill, while previous Fellows include Sir Winston Churchill, C.S Lewis, Seamus Heaney and Beatrice Webb.

Prof Runciman has been recognised for his work on the history of political thought (from Hobbes through to late nineteenth and twentieth century political thought); theories of the state and political representation; and contemporary politics and political theory.

For more information on the Cambridge electees, please see below!

[Read more](#)

### **Winner of the Lisa Smirl Prize 2017-18 Announced**

POLIS would like to offer their sincerest congratulations to former PhD student José Ciro Martinez who has won the 2017-18 Lisa Smirl Prize.

His thesis entitled, 'The Politics of Bread: State Power, Food Subsidies and Neoliberalization in Hashemite Jordan', was described by the judges as 'a highly innovative study of welfare politics in Jordan, presenting the Jordanian state as engaged in a process of demonstrating its authority through the distribution of flour, the regulation of bread prices and the indirect management of the bakery'.

The Prize is named in memory of Lisa Smirl, who gained her PhD in the Department in 2010 but who sadly died of cancer in February 2013.

### **POLIS Undergraduate Prize Winners Speak**

The Department of POLIS is delighted to announce that our undergraduates have completed their end of year assessments and prizes have been awarded.

The John Dunn Prize is awarded each year to the Part IIB student who submits the best dissertation. This year **Annabel Mahgerefteh** and her dissertation "Women and the Iranian Revolution" and **Alexandre Paturel** and his dissertation "Science, sexuality and the state: Alfred Kinsey and American religious conservative politics" was selected as the most worthy winners. Here are their comments about their work:

*Annabel: "Writing a dissertation brought with it many opportunities to deepen my relationship with the course and explore the subjects I love. Within the multiple HSPS subjects since first year, I found myself asking questions about the collaboration of seemingly contradictory forces in the Iranian Revolution and the complex development of the new female subject. Hence, the experience enabled me to delve into these issues, analysing it through a Foucauldian discursive framework, enriched by the support and expertise of my supervisor. I really enjoyed the experience of studying a single topic over a longer period, and would thoroughly recommend it."*

*Alexandre: "Working through my dissertation's argument was very enriching. Focusing on the sexual illiberalism of the American political right, I was lucky to be able to combine my own political concerns with such an important part of my degree. Moreover, with the privilege of being supervised at such a high level, I found that the process of (re)writing the dissertation also taught me how to make and frame political arguments more generally."*

The Schmidt Prize is awarded each year to the Part IIA student who submits the best long essay and this year the Examiners judged the essay 'Are economic sanctions an effective way to make states comply with international rules?' written by **Axel Larsson** to be the best POL5 essay in the crop.

*Axel Larsson writes: "My essay builds the argument that economic sanctions are more effective than what is often argued by bringing attention to sanctions' indirect and third-party effects. It also makes the case that there is a selection bias in the data used in several studies leading to an underestimation of the effectiveness of economic sanctions. At first, I found POL5 rather challenging as the way to tackle the essay questions is rather different from the shorter essays one writes on a weekly basis in other papers. Ultimately, however, the experience of working more independently, with a broad question for a longer time frame was truly rewarding. I especially recommend POL5 for anyone wanting to write a dissertation as -at least I- learned many valuable things of writing a longer essay along the way."*

Congratulations to Annabel, Alex and Axel, and to all undergraduate students on their hard work this year.

### **The Bennett Studentship for Public Policy**

The Bennett Institute for Public Policy is delighted to announce its PhD scholarship towards a full-time postgraduate degree in the area of public policy at the University of Cambridge.

We are looking to fund PhD students interested in a wide variety of topics, including politics, international relations, law, economics, history and geography. Applicants must demonstrate a strong commitment to studying public policy.

The three-year scholarship covers course fees, with study based in students' home departments within the University of Cambridge.

PhD candidates funded by the Bennett Institute will also benefit from engagement with the Institute, its research and networks and opportunities to showcase their work and to further their professional development in the field of Public Policy.

The Bennett Institute for Public Policy launched on 16 April 2018 with a mission to conduct high-level research, teaching and policy engagement and to generate successful and sustainable solutions to some of the most pressing problems of our time. The Institute has at its heart a commitment to a deeper analysis of the economic, social and political systems in which policy is developed; the creation of powerful new networks of policy-makers, influencers and researchers; and the development of a new generation of reflexive and critical policy leaders.

If you would like to enquire about the Bennett Studentship for Public Policy, please contact the Bennett Institute for more information and details of how to apply.

We welcome expressions of interest throughout Michaelmas term 2018 for PhD study starting 2019/2020.

Contact: [office@bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk](mailto:office@bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk) | 01223 767233

### **MPhil Careers Day - January 2019**

We are currently looking into the possibility of arranging a further MPhil Careers Day, where current MPhil students are given the opportunity to learn more about how to enter the fields of Media and Journalism, Law, the Civil Service, Research and Consultancy, and the Development and Human Rights sector. Other the past few years, this has taken place in January.

Last year, the students greatly enjoyed hearing from POLIS alumni about how their studies were useful to their careers and how they got to where they are. If anyone would be interested in being involved in future events, please contact us on [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk) as we'd love to hear from you!

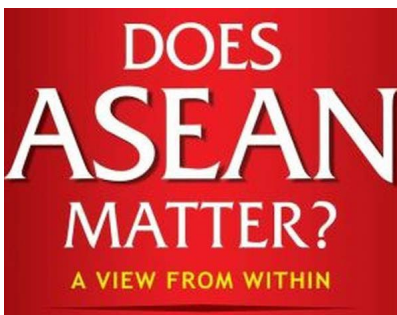
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## **New Book from POLIS Alumnus**

***Does ASEAN Matter? A View from Within* By Dr RM Marty Natalegawa**

Written by the highly regarded diplomat and Cambridge alumnus, Marty Natalegawa, former ambassador and foreign minister of Indonesia, this book offers a unique insider-perspective on the present and future relevance of ASEAN. It is about ASEAN's quest for security and prosperity in a region marked by complex dynamics of power. Namely, the interplay of relations and interests among countries -- large and small -- which provide the settings within which ASEAN must deliver on its much-cited leadership and centrality in the region.

The book seeks to answer the following questions: How can ASEAN build upon its past contributions to the peace, security and prosperity of Southeast Asia, to the wider East Asia, the Asia-Pacific and the Indo-Pacific regions? More fundamentally and a sine qua non, how can ASEAN continue to ensure that peace, security and prosperity prevail in Southeast Asia? And, equally central, how can



ASEAN become more relevant to the peoples of ASEAN, such that its contributions can be genuinely felt in making better the lives of its citizens?

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## Spotlight Interview: Chris Vermont

*“Sorry I won’t be able to supervise your Long Vac Term. Have left for Italy to fight the elections for the Communist Party. See below reading list”.*

SPS alumnus Chris Vermont shares his experiences of Cambridge, as well as some insights from a 36 year career in Emerging Markets finance, latterly as Senior Expert to the EU on a financial guarantee programme to address the causes of economic migration.

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If you'd like to be featured in next issue's Spotlight segment, please contact me on [alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk). This will feature a guest article written by a former POLIS student, of between 800 and 1200 words, and should include information about their time at Cambridge, their work now, and the link between the two (if any!)

Examples of previous articles can be found at <https://www.polis.cam.ac.uk/alumni/spotlightinterviews>

[Read more](#)

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## Talking Politics - Latest Podcasts:

### **114 | Labour's Fault Lines**

September 05, 2018

Summer's over: politics is back! This week we return to the mystery inside the enigma that is Brexit to ask where Labour now stands. What is the big divide in the Labour movement: Is it MPs vs leader? Members vs voters? Young vs old? And what could a second referendum achieve anyway? Plus we try to make sense of the fraught fight over the definition of anti-Semitism. With Helen Thompson, Chris Bickerton and Waseem Yaqoob.

### **113 | Crashed**

August 29, 2018



Helen and David talk to historian Adam Tooze about his epic new book *Crashed: How A Decade of Financial Crises Changed the World*. Why did the crash of 2008 take so many people by surprise? How did it spread from the US around the world? Why was Europe so vulnerable? And how do the answers to these questions help explain Brexit, Trump and what's now going on in places from Hungary to China? Plus, as we approach the 10-year anniversary of the event that triggered the crisis, we explore what might have happened if Lehman Brothers had been saved

[Read more](#)

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Dear  
World...  
  
Yours,  
Cambridge



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