

POLIS alumni - September 2020

Dear all,

Welcome to the September 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

Alumni Event - Centre for Geopolitics

You are invited to join the below alumni event – an online panel discussion being hosted jointly by the Department of Politics and International Studies (POLIS) and the Centre for Geopolitics.

Are we at the end of the long twentieth century?

Tuesday 20 October 5-6pm (UK Time)

This year has been dominated by two major geopolitical developments.

First, the Coronavirus epidemic with its unprecedented economic, cultural and political consequences. Secondly, there has been a marked escalation in the confrontation between the United States and China. As a result, has the balance shifted between east and west and north and south? Does the UK, or even Europe, still matter in this new configuration? Has the pandemic simply accelerated existing trends or created a completely new system? Have we been here before?

To investigate how these trends should be interpreted in the wider context of world order, the Centre for Geopolitics and POLIS have assembled an expert panel. On the panel is Professor Jason Sharman (chair), Dr Kun-Chin Lin, Tun Suffian, Professor Helen Thompson and Dr Ayse Zarakol.



To register for the webinar, which will be held on Zoom, please use the [registration link](#):

Dr Andrea Binder is the winner of the Körber Foundation's German Dissertation Award 2020

Former POLIS PhD student **Andrea Binder** has won the Körber Foundation's German Dissertation Award 2020. The prize honors excellent PhD research with a high relevance for society. The annual competition is held under the auspices of Bundestag President Wolfgang Schäuble. The award is endowed with EUR25.000.

Her PhD Thesis title is “The politics of the invisible: offshore finance and state power” and her supervisors were Helen Thompson and Jason Sharman. The department of Politics and International Studies would like to congratulate Andrea on her success. If you would like to visit the Körber Foundation's web-page, please click [here](#)

Winner of the Aaron Rapport Teaching Prize 2020

We are delighted to announce that Professor **Jude Browne** is the inaugural winner of the Aaron Rapport prize, awarded to a colleague who is specially commended by our students for their teaching. Professor Browne's excellence on the undergraduate course on Gender and Politics has been recognised in consistently outstanding feedback from her students. The prize is named in memory of one of the most popular and engaging lecturers in the department of Politics and International Studies, and it is with great pleasure that the department congratulates Jude on her success.

ERIS (European Review of International Studies)

The latest issue of ERIS, co-edited by Prof Christopher Hill (POLIS, Cambridge) and Prof Christian Lequesne (Sciences Po, Paris), has just been published. ERIS exists to provide a space for European thinking on international relations. It welcomes all submissions but particularly those from early career scholars. This issue is the first to be published with Brill who are offering the current issue free to those interested. An interview with Prof Christian Lequesne can be found on the [Sciences Po website](#) and more information on the CAMPO Scheme on the [POLIS website](#).

New publications from POLIS alumni

Emina Osmandzovic

MPhil in International Relations and Politics alumni Emina Osmandzovic is proud to announce the publication of her thesis in the European Scientific Journal (31 March 2019) Her thesis “Refugee Characteristics as a Game-Changer for Integration in Fortress Europe.” can be viewed [here](#).

Markus Forsman

Markus Forsman has had an article published in the Sveriges Riksbank Economic Review in May (in Swedish) and June (English). The article “30 years of combating money laundering in Sweden and internationally – does the system function as intended?” can be viewed [here](#).

Joe Paul Kroll

SPS alumnus Joe Paul Kroll is the co-editor of the recently published book [History, Metaphors, Fables](#). It collects the central writings by Hans Blumenberg and covers philosophy of language, metaphor theory, non-conceptuality, aesthetics, politics, and literary studies. He has also translated the Blumenberg work, [Rigorism of Truth](#).

Richard Johnson

Dr Richard Johnson, a Lecturer in US Politics at Lancaster University has published a book entitled [The End of the Second Reconstruction: Obama, Trump, and the Crisis of Civil Rights](#). He read SPS/PPS at Jesus College in 2009-12 and was supervised by wonderful POLIS staff including Helen Thompson, Andrew Gamble, Chris Brooke, and Duncan Kelly – all who get a mention in the acknowledgements.

Thomas Maguire

Alumni Thomas Maguire has had an article published in the International History Review (2020). It is titled 'Creating a Commonwealth Security Culture? State-Building and the International Politics of Security Assistance in Tanzania', and can be viewed [here](#).

JC de Swaan

JC de Swaan, lecturer in economics at Princeton University, is pleased to announce the publication of his book: *Seeking Virtue in Finance: Contributing to Society in a Conflicted Industry* (Cambridge University Press, 2020). Since the Global Financial Crisis, a surge of interest in the use of finance as a tool to address social and economic problems suggests the potential for a generational shift in how the finance industry operates and is perceived. The book seeks to channel the forces of well-intentioned finance professionals to improve finance from within and help restore its focus on serving society.

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

275 | The Incompetence of Boris Johnson
September 10, 2020

This week we talk about the politics of incompetence: when does it matter and when can politicians get away with it. Have repeated u-turns during the pandemic damaged the government? Has Nicola Sturgeon had a better crisis than Boris Johnson or is it just competence theatre? Is the government's incompetence



going to be enough to get Keir Starmer into Downing Street? With Helen Thompson, Chris Brooke and Chris Bickerton.

[Listen now](#)

274 | The Politics of Loneliness September 03, 2020

David talks to economist and author Noreena Hertz about loneliness and its impact on all our lives. How does the experience of loneliness shape contemporary democracy? What kind of politics could make us feel more connected? Can technology bring us together or is it driving us further apart? Plus we discuss the consequences of the pandemic for the future of work and the possibility of building a better world.



[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



Department of Politics and International Studies

Call: +44 (0)1223 767261
Email: alumni@polis.cam.ac.uk

Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT, United Kingdom

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