

Fifth Week Newsletter. Trinity Term, 2017.

Queen's Notices

1. Catholic Mass in the Chapel.

Other Notices

2. Paid Study: Pain.

3. Seminar: "The Consequences of Severe Climate Change in 2100".

4. Notices from the International Relations Society.

5. The Loss Foundation.

6. Notices from the Economic Society.

1. Catholic Mass in the Chapel.

The Catholic Chaplaincy is holding a Mass in Queen's Chapel this Wednesday at 6pm. The choir will be singing, and all are welcome to come along!

The Facebook event is here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/308569456244355>.

2. Paid Study: Pain.

Are you interested in helping with a brain study on pain? Are you healthy, right-handed and between 18-40 years old?

Then we invite you to participate in our study that takes about 3 hrs of your time over two visits. During one of the visit we will measure your brain activity using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) while you perform a computer task in which brief electrical stimuli will be administered to the back of your hand.

MRI is a type of brain scan that allows us to see how the brain processes information. This scan is safe and does not involve any needles or injections. The electrical stimuli are mild and their strength is always adjusted to your individual pain-sensitivity level.

The study will take place at the Oxford Centre for Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging of the Brain (FMRIB Centre, JR Hospital) in Oxford.

You will be reimbursed for your participation. If you are interested or if you want more information about the study, please contact:

Ondrej Zika(ondrej.zika@ndcn.ox.ac.uk)

3. Seminar: "The Consequences of Severe Climate Change in 2100".

A seminar will be held at the Oxford Martin School on the 23rd of May at 5.30pm, titled "The 2 Trillionth Tonne: Consequences of Severe Climate Change in 2100", followed by a drinks reception. All are welcome. The panel is as follows:

Prof Tim Lenton, Chair in Climate Change and Earth System Science at University of Exeter
Achim Steiner, Administrator of United Nations Development Programme, Former Executive Director of United Nations Environment Programme and Director of Oxford Martin School
Nicholas Crane, President of Royal Geographic Society and Presenter of BBC's "Coast"
Prof Myles Allen, Head of Climate Dynamics Group at University of Oxford and Lead Author on IPCC Detection of Climate Change Report 2001

4. Notices from the International Relations Society.

1. Sir Frank Berman on 'British Diplomacy and Negotiation' - Wednesday 5th Week
2. Dr Annette Idler on 'The Convergence of Conflict and Organised Crime' - Tuesday 6th Week
3. Richard Barrett CMG OBE on 'The Influence of Terrorism on International Affairs' - Thursday 6th Week

1. Sir Frank Berman is a distinguished diplomat and civil servant. After a Rhodes Scholarship to Wadham College, he joined Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service, and from 1965-1971 served as an assistant legal advisor for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. He served as legal advisor for the British Military Government of Berlin from 1971-72, and at the British Embassy in Bonn from 1972-74. He has been a legal counsellor for the FCO and counsellor for the UK Mission to the United Nations from, and in 1983 was J C Smith Visiting Fellow at the University of Nottingham. He served first as deputy legal advisor, then as legal advisor for the FCO from 1988-99, and was made an honorary Queen's Counsel in 1992. Since joining Essex Street Chambers in 2000, he has specialised in international arbitration and advisory work in international law, serving as a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration since 2010. He is a visiting professor of international law at the University of Oxford, the University of Cape Town, and King's College London, and has won numerous awards.

This event is FREE for members and £3 for non-members, with a special offer of £20 for lifetime membership of the Society available for a limited time.

Wednesday 24th May, Saskatchewan Room, Exeter College @ 7:30

Facebook Event: www.facebook.com/events/376220689404344

If you would like to have dinner with the speaker, please fill in the form below to enter the ballot: <https://goo.gl/forms/e4D4jmP3cPJYIaCr2>

2. Dr Idler is the Director of Studies of the Changing Character of War Programme, Senior Research Fellow at Pembroke College, and Senior Research Fellow at the Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford University. She is also Research Associate at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding, Graduate Institute Geneva. Her research interests lie at

the interface of security, conflict and transnational organised crime and she has conducted extensive fieldwork in the war-torn and crisis-affected borderlands of Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, analysing the relationships among rebels, criminals and paramilitary groups. Alongside her experience of working for the UNDP's Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, she is regularly invited to give expert briefings to governments and international organisations including the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the UN Department of Political Affairs and EUROPOL, among others.

This event is FREE for members and £3 for non-members, with a special offer of £20 for lifetime membership of the Society available for a limited time.

Tuesday 30th May, Pichette Auditorium, Pembroke College @ 7:30

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1277647025617155>

If you would like to have dinner with the speaker, please fill in the form below to enter the ballot: <https://goo.gl/forms/hos3O6xxtulXCxI92>

3. Richard Barrett CMG OBE is a counter-terrorism expert, highly respected around the world for his insight and experience in combating violent extremism. Formerly a British diplomat (and Oxford student), Barrett has worked in the Foreign Office, MI5 and the British Secret Intelligence Service. Barrett was Director of Global Counter Terrorism Operations at the SIS at the time of 9/11. He has also worked with the UN in monitoring the activity of Al-Qaida, and helped found the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Alongside these roles, Barrett has shared his thoughts through a number of prestigious journalistic outlets such as the Guardian, The Financial Times and CNN's Amanpour.

This event is FREE for members and £3 for non-members, with a special offer of £20 for lifetime membership of the Society available for a limited time.

Thursday 1st June, Pichette Auditorium, Pembroke College @ 7:30

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/307818596315010>

If you would like to have dinner with the speaker, please fill in the form below to enter the ballot: <https://goo.gl/forms/U8L3cOzseD2jrocX2>

5. The Loss Foundation.

The Loss Foundation is a charity dedicated to providing support to those coping with bereavement and in Oxford we run support sessions specifically for students living with grief. These groups aim to create a space to where grief is not a taboo, to provide a way to connect with others experiencing similar struggles, and to signpost to other information or help. The groups run fortnightly in Turl Street Kitchen from 7.30pm-9.00pm, the next group is on Thursday of 6th Week. All are welcome and we provide tea and cake!

The Loss Foundation website: <http://www.thelossfoundation.org/student-group/>

6. Notices from the Economics Society.

1. Tony Yates: Crypto-Currencies and Monetary Policy

2. A Week in Economics

Tony Yates; Crypto-Currencies and Monetary Policy

24 May at 17:30–18:30

Manor Road Building,

Tony Yates worked at the Bank of England for 20 years and is well-versed in the practice of monetary policy. He will be coming to speak to us about the implications of non-sovereign currencies for how central banks conduct policy.

Tony is Professor of Economics at Birmingham University. His research focuses on monetary policy and macroeconomics. He also blogs at [longandvariable](http://longandvariable.com), and Tweets at [@t0nyyates](https://twitter.com/t0nyyates). Tony is an eminent thinker in the field and so we're very excited to welcome him.

For more information see the facebook event

Admission is free

A Week in Economics

Macroeconomics: The International Accounting Standards Board is issuing a new set of regulations on insurance companies, which standardizes insurance accounting practices across 73 countries and distinguishes between underwriting profits and investment returns, likely decreasing the cost of capital.

UK: The British government has sold the last of its shares in Lloyds Bank, tapering off the support that it gave to banks during the 2009 financial crisis. It still owns majority shares in RBS. A secondary market in crowdfunding shares is being instituted, which may encourage entrepreneurship but also comes with significant risks due to illiquidity in startups.

US: The economic plan that Trump has recently been putting forward involves a sharp decline in the corporate tax rate, mild stimulus packages, and a renegotiation of NAFTA terms in a change from his previous assertion that the trade agreement would be scrapped.

Markets: The Volatility Index is at very low levels, signaling investor complacency. Equity markets are at record lows, signaling that some of the boost in investor confidence from the expectation of future deregulation and tax cuts is waning, likely due to decreasing confidence in President Trump.

Long-View: Crypto-currencies such as Bitcoin pose long-term problems because their value has appreciated significantly and could result in a bubble if their use becomes more widespread and institutionally recognized as they do not have mechanisms for traditional monetary policy