



# Fresh from the Forum



## Five events down, many more to go

This autumn has been full of exciting talks about the IF – and we’re only halfway through!



We still have more exciting events planned. For a preview of what’s to come in the next few weeks and an update on what’s already happened, turn to [pages 2 and 3](#).



## Meet our new Deputy Director!

We are thrilled to announce that Dr Eleanor O’Gorman is joining the IF as our new Deputy Director.

Eleanor will officially start her new role on 6 December. To get to know Eleanor and find out about why she’s excited to become a part of the IF team, see [page 9](#).

## Tackling big topics: celebrating our 2023 interns

This summer, the IF hosted four Jesus College students to do projects of their own design under the supervision of the IF team.

All four interns took on ambitious, topical subjects, from inequality in free school meals and how to rebuild Ukraine sustainably to eco-anxiety and the human/nature relationship.

Find out more about our interns and their work on [pages 4-7](#).

Want to stay up-to-date with the IF? Follow us on [Twitter/X @IntellForum](#).

# Coming up at the IF



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## John Bercow: Speaking for change in the House of Commons



Over his ten years as Speaker, John Bercow's calls for "Order, order!" made him a household name—and a controversial figure. Not content simply to hold the office, John wanted to use his position as Speaker to be a progressive change-maker, earning him friends and enemies. In this talk, John will take us behind the scenes of Parliament to discuss his time as Speaker and the challenges of delivering change in a conservative environment.



## Displacement and memories of loss with Sheila Fitzpatrick



The upheavals and violence of the twentieth century resulted in displacements and dislocations on an almost unimaginable scale. In this lecture, Professor Sheila Fitzpatrick, one of Australia's foremost historians and a recognised expert on the Soviet Union and modern Russian history, will discuss the displacement of things and people across the former Soviet Union and its sphere of influence, within and beyond its borders.



## Britain's organic farming pioneers: What went wrong?



The organic movement developed in the early 1900s as a response to large-scale mechanised and chemicalised agricultural practices. But for the decades going forward, farming policies and practice favoured the large, mechanised farms that the organic farming movement protested against; today, however, organic farming is back on the rise as farmers and consumers become more aware of the environmental consequences of chemicalised farming. Why didn't organic farming have the same appeal when the movement first emerged?



## Ros Atkins on... The art of explanation



Do you worry about holding people's attention during presentations? Are you unsure where to start when faced with writing an essay or report? In his new book, longtime BBC presenter Ros Atkins describes how a system he first devised while an undergraduate is still the foundation of how he approaches communication and explanation in his work as a journalist. Join us as Ros shares his approach and some of the experiences which shaped it. After the talk, Ros will be signing copies of his new book, "The Art of Explanation", which will be available to buy.





# What's happened at the IF



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We have had some fantastic speakers visit the IF so far this autumn to discuss humour, multilingualism in literature, international law, how to write a novel, and the experiences of women in policy.

Find out more about each event on our [Past Events page](#). To watch recordings of previous events, visit the [Jesus College YouTube page](#).



## Knock, knock! In pursuit of a grand, unified theory of humour

William Hartston explored the evolution of the most celebrated, yet puzzling, human quality: humour. Take his joke survey [on page 12](#).



## Afropolitanism and "Ada's Realm"

Prizewinning author Sharon Dodua Otoo spoke about multilingualism, how history affects the present, and translation in a discussion about the recently published English-language edition of her debut novel "Ada's Realm".

## Britain and the world

Renowned barrister Philippe Sands spoke at the IF about his career in international law and his views on some of the most pressing human rights issues of our time, including the war in Ukraine and the Israel-Palestine conflict.



## Time to Write: Emily Winslow's 49 lessons for writing a novel

Crime writer Emily Winslow inspired our audience to write by discussing her new book, which guides aspiring writers through the drafting and publication process.



"A fantastic evening - interesting, comfortable, and well-managed".

- Anonymous event attendee



## Young Women in Policy in South Asia

At this panel event, four women from the policy worlds in India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan shared their personal and professional experiences of working in often male-dominated environments.

# Celebrating our 2023 interns



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The IF hosts several interns from the College each year to undertake interdisciplinary projects under the supervision of the IF team.

This summer, four interns—Kefeshe Bernard, Ezra Grosz, Noah Rouse, and Lyudmyla Tautiyeva—joined the IF to work on projects tackling social inequality, climate change, society’s relationship with nature, and post-war recovery.



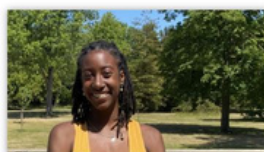
**Ezra Grosz** →  
Ezra is an undergraduate at Jesus College studying Geography.



**Noah Rouse** →  
Noah is an undergraduate at Jesus College studying Theology.



**Lyudmyla Tautiyeva** →  
Lyudmyla was a postgraduate at Jesus College studying for an MPhil in Public Policy.



**Kefeshe Bernard** →  
Kefeshe is an undergraduate at Jesus College studying Human, Social, and Political Sciences, specialising in Sociology.



**Lewis Westwood Flood** →  
Lewis was an undergraduate at Jesus College studying Human, Social, and Political Sciences, specialising in Social Anthropology.



**Eliza Bond** →  
Eliza graduated from Jesus College in 2021 with a BA in Law.



## Kefeshe Bernard

### Universal school lunch provision in primary schools

Kefeshe, a third year studying Human, Social, and Political Sciences (HSPS), is interested in social and political questions of ethnicity and how they overlap with issues of the environment, food, health, and wellbeing.

Their research at the IF investigated how the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the provision of free school meals within primary schools in the UK.

In the future, they hope to continue researching different intersectional issues surrounding ethnicity, food, and environment.

What impact do you hope your research at the IF will have?

A lot of the studies mention that race and ethnicity are factors, and that a lot of children of colour have a higher risk of being exposed to food insecurity, but not a lot of them actually went into specific detail about it, or they would categorise it as white vs non-white without going into both of the categories. There’s a lot in that department that’s not really being studied as much, so I hope that, if people read my systematic review, they will realize that’s a tunnel of research that we should look more into, and hopefully that would lead on to policy changes to widen eligibility. Ideally, free school meals would be universal across all school years, but I think that will take a while.

[Read the full interview with Kefeshe.](#)



# Celebrating our 2023 interns



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## Ezra Grosz

### **A survey on eco-anxiety and climate-related emotions**

Within his Geography degree, third year student Ezra is interested in how understandings of nature influence the way in which we address the climate and ecological crisis. He is particularly interested in literary geographies and more-than-human geographies.

His research at the IF investigated eco-anxiety and climate-related emotions in higher education professionals, and their links to perceptions of institutional and government action.

Going forward, he hopes to pursue research on how literature can help us live through environmental change.

"I'm very grateful for the support, advice and opportunities offered by the IF [...]. Even if I have felt 'thrown in the deep end' at times, the opportunity to work closely with professionals in this way is unique and I feel that I have learned a huge amount from it. Overall, the IF internship has been very good for my academic and personal development, and I would definitely recommend it to anyone interested."

What is eco-anxiety? Is it a constructive phrase to use to describe climate-related emotions?

On a personal level, I don't think eco-anxiety best describes what I feel. I think I feel more ecological grief, and much more of a sense of sadness and loss. On a wider societal level, it doesn't adequately capture the full set of entitled relations to land and land as more than human. But there is value to using it to talk about other emotions and emotions that might be more interesting, like for example eco-rage. I think eco-anxiety can be quite depoliticizing by its associations with individual mental health problems. The solution to eco-anxiety is not pathologizing it, nor is it telling individuals to go take action, but it's to implement systemic changes that lead to changes in the environment, both the social and policy environment, but also in ecological conditions.

[Read the full interview with Ezra.](#)

# Celebrating our 2023 interns



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## Noah Rouse

### Podcasting about society's relationship with nature

Throughout his Theology degree, Noah has been especially interested in how individuals understand themselves to relate to the divine across different religious traditions and the role that nature plays in this.

During his internship, Noah created a podcast exploring the ways in which humankind's perceived relationship with nature has changed throughout history and the impact this has had on our academic disciplines and the world around us.

Looking forward, Noah is interested in further exploring humankind's self-understanding and how it relates to the ineffable.

[Listen to Noah's podcast, "Entanglements".](#)

Where does the title  
"Entanglements" come from?

Entanglements is an anthropological word (you get "entangled" with nature), but it's also to show that nature is not a neat categorization. Society is not a "neat" thing, and if anything, nature is even less of a "neat" thing. Are we part of nature, is what we create part of nature? There are these porous boundaries that people often look over but are actually quite impactful in how we think about the world. At what point do we start thinking of ourselves as separate from nature?

[Read the full interview with Noah.](#)





# Celebrating our 2023 interns



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[Lyudmyla Tautiyeva](#)

**Rebuilding Ukraine with sustainable infrastructure**

Lyudmyla completed her MPhil in Public Policy at Jesus this year. She is particularly interested in governance, entrepreneurship and innovation policies, and sustainable infrastructure delivery.

Her research at the IF was focussed on the means of delivering sustainable infrastructure for Ukraine's recovery, including transport, housing, and other social infrastructure.

In the future, she hopes to continue working in international development on projects relating to Ukraine's sustainable socio-economic development, including potentially working for the Ukrainian government.

[Read Lyudmyla's final report.](#)

How are you thinking about navigating the tension between present-day needs and long-term goals in relation to post-war reconstruction?

I think this tension is so challenging but at the same time it's offering so much in terms of what could be done better. It not only needs you to think big, but also thinking realistically. You have literally people who have lost homes and have nowhere to return to. You can imagine that there's such a huge displacement of population, so making sure that they come back and we can rebuilt our economy means that we need to get people back. It's a chicken and egg problem: you need to deliver the infrastructure so that people come back, but you can't deliver the infrastructure unless people are there and they're interested and they're going to stay.

[Read the full interview with Lyudmyla.](#)

We hope to continue to be able to provide these internships in years to come, and would welcome support for the programme or for specific projects, which can be [arranged with our Director.](#)

# Stories from the IF team



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## Calling for action: Dr Sarah Steele exposes lack of sexual harassment training in UK medical schools

IF Senior Research Associate Dr Sarah Steele made national news in September when she released the findings of research she led showing that there is no standardisation of training on sexual misconduct across UK medical universities.



Based on responses by the UK's 34 medical schools to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, the study found that almost half of medical schools offered no training, or only generalised harassment training that was not specific to sexual misconduct or that was wholly outside the context of being a doctor. The results of the study were published in "JRSO Open" and reported nationally in "The Guardian", "The Times", and "The Independent".

The findings were released alongside the results of a survey suggesting that nearly one in three female NHS surgeons have been sexually assaulted. In August 2023, the General Medical Council issued new professional standards for doctors which, for the first time, included explicit rules on sexual misconduct.

Dr Steele said: "The latest GMC professional standards make it imperative medical schools offer this training. Tomorrow's doctors need to be trained properly if we are to put in place the zero-tolerance approach."

[Read Sarah's paper in the "JRSO Open".](#)

If you're wondering what you can do as an individual to combat sexual misconduct, consider taking our free, online active bystander training, available for free to anyone anywhere in the world via education provider edX.

Dr Steele, who leads the course, said: "This course draws on up-to-date research and evidence on action and inaction, and offers real-world examples to help people respond at work, in public, and even at home. It can be accessed by anyone in the world for free so in the face of a lack of workplace training, individuals can still equip themselves with these essential skills."

[Learn more about Sarah's edX course.](#)



# Our new Deputy Director



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## Meet Eleanor O’Gorman!

### Tell us a little about yourself.

I came to Cambridge first as a PhD student working on global security from a gender perspective. My research looked at the role and everyday lives of women in the Zimbabwean liberation war of the 1970s. This led to a passionately engaging international career working on aid, conflict and peacebuilding at the UN, starting in New York and including a stint on EU-UN relations in Brussels. I was also a Director at a peacebuilding NGO in London, and a freelance adviser to many governments, NGOs, and international organisations. This work has taken me to many places including Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Lebanon, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. I’ve helped usher in new policies to prevent and respond to conflict, accompanied teams in post-crisis countries on recovery strategy and reconciliation, and facilitated organisational learning in various capitals to navigate political and operational challenges.



Throughout this I continued teaching, writing, and remaining engaged with education in many forms, including continuing professional development, mid-career change seekers, girls’ education globally, university teaching, funding and assessment.

### What drew you to the Deputy Director role?

The wonderful prospect of finding the place where the different parts of my life and work come together seamlessly, allowing me to help broker ideas, engagement and collaboration among diverse people and actors to improve our world. The ethos of the IF and the Director in welcoming and creating space for this is a big draw for me. Finally, I would have to say that the community, beauty, and history of Jesus College as a place to work and grow and hopefully contribute was the icing on the cake.

### What are you looking forward to about joining the IF?

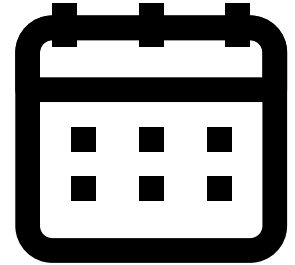
Being part of a dynamic and friendly team at the heart of a thriving College community fuelled by people and ideas. I look forward to engaging with students, Fellows, staff, alumni, visitors, and the wider Cambridge community where I live. I also look forward to the expansive opportunities to invite and work with a whole global range of organisations, speakers, writers, scientists, researchers, leaders, and future leaders in their communities, sectors, and countries.

# Never miss an event

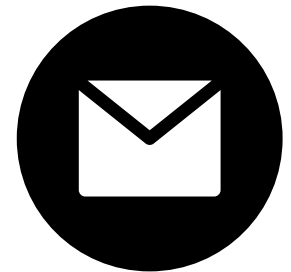


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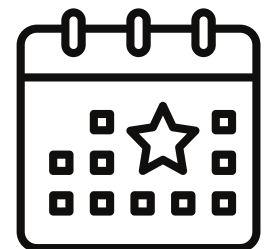
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# Knock, knock! A joke survey



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At our first event of the autumn, "Knock, knock! In pursuit of a grand unified theory of humour", William Hartston gave our audience a survey with a list of ten jokes to rate. The results confirm that our senses of humour are all different—every single joke was the favourite of at least one person!

Which joke tickles your funny bone?

[Take the survey yourself and submit your results here to see how your sense of humour stacks up with the rest of our respondents'!](#)

1: A dyslexic walked into a bra.

2: Two ducks were in a pond. One of them said: "Quack". The other replied: "I was just about to say that."

3: I had written to Aunt Maud, Who was on a trip abroad, When I heard she'd died of cramp, Just too late to save the stamp.

4: Two hunters went out into the wilderness and one of them suddenly collapsed and died. The other, in a panic, phoned the emergency services. "Calm down," he was told. "The first thing we must do is make sure he is dead." The caller then left the phone and a gunshot was heard. "Right, done that," the caller said when he returned to the phone. "What comes next?"

5: There was a young man from Peru, Whose limerick stopped at line two.

6: Two fish are in a tank. One says to the other, "Do you know how to drive this?"

7: Riddle: Why did the bicycle fall over: Answer: Because it was two-tyred.

8: Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar. "Get out!" shouts the barman, "We don't serve your types."

9: A sloth is crawling along a road when he is set upon and beaten up by a gang of snails who leave him injured and bloody in the street and go off laughing. The sloth then drags himself to a police station to report the assault. "Did you get a good look at your assailants?" the policemen asks. "Can you give us a description of them?" and the sloth says, "It all happened so fast."

10: A farmer asked me to help him round up his 47 sheep. I said "50".

