



## Welcome



As you may know the start of the academic year is an exciting and busy time, whether as a student or member of staff but I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a whole-hearted welcome, look back at a few of the highpoints of the past school year and let you know what is ahead.

In January we inaugurated the School's 50th anniversary celebrations with the Peston Lecture given by Mark Carney, Governor of the Bank of England. He spoke about global economic trends and gave a much awaited announcement about interest rates, you can read more about this later in the newsletter. The event attracted huge interest, with students, staff, alumni and the media filling the Great Hall and the second live relay lecture theatre. You can view the lecture from our school events web page.

The Peston lecture is in honour of the founder of the school and the first head, Professor Maurice Peston who sadly passed away in April 2016. The lecture was established a few years ago

in recognition of and to celebrate the multifaceted contributions of Lord Peston to Queen Mary and to economics. The lectures focus on the interface between economics and public policy, a subject close to Lord Peston's heart. His son Robert Peston, previously economics correspondent at the BBC and now political editor for ITV news, gave the lecture in March 2015, where he paid homage to his father's contribution to developing economic and social policies for promoting social justice. We will announce later this semester the speaker for 2017.

As part of the 50th anniversary celebrations we hosted a gala dinner in the prestigious Drapers' Hall in the City of London in June, an enjoyable evening attended by alumni, current students and staff. It was a particular joy to reconnect with the alumni, many of whom had very fond memories of Lord Peston. The 50th anniversary celebrations will continue into this academic year, with public lectures and conferences.

In other news, joining us this year are several new members of staff: new Lecturers, Dr. Anja Prummer, who was previously a post-doctoral researcher at Cambridge University, Dr. Sebastian Axebard, who has just finished his doctoral studies at Uppsala University. Dr. Konstantinos Zachariadis, previously an Assistant Professor in Finance at the London School of Economics, joins us as a Reader in Finance, and Dr. Ludovic Renou will take up appointment as a Professor in Economics from January 2017. Professor Renou was previously a Professor at the University of Essex. Finally, we have Kiri Cragin Folwell

joining us Marketing Manager and Cathy Balfe who joined in April 2016 as Careers Consultant. A very hearty welcome to all our new colleagues!

The changing higher education landscape has meant that schools must strive for now more than ever, external funding streams and the school is proactive in this area, recent research funding success include a Nuffield Foundation research grant awarded to Dr Giulio Fella in collaboration with a colleague at UCL to look at the impact of earnings on consumption and wealth inequality when there are risks to earnings.

I am pleased to see the first in-take to the new MSc Wealth Management, building on the successful portfolio of postgraduate degrees the school offers and with new opportunities expected in the near future for our undergraduate degrees too. Our MRes and PhD programme go from strength to strength, and news about recent successful vivas are included inside. You will also read later just a few examples of the school's commitment to providing excellent teaching, being active in research and supporting students of which I am proud.

Lastly, we are looking forward to moving into the new home for the school, we will be based on several floors of the Graduate Centre in January 2017. You can see the building rapidly taking shape if you are walking by G.E.Fogg building or Bancroft Road. I look forward to being able to meet some of you at forthcoming events.

**Professor Sujoy Mukerji**  
Head of School



## Governor of the Bank of England visits the School

Earlier this year the Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney, delivered the annual Peston Lecture 2016, which marked the 50th anniversary of the School of Economics and Finance. The Governor delivered a much awaited announcement during his lecture in January 2016 about interest rates. Mr Carney said that plummeting oil prices and an uncertain global environment meant that “tighter monetary policy was not yet necessary”.

Mr Carney said: “In my view the decision has proved straightforward. Now is not yet the time to raise interest rates.”

In a downbeat assessment of the global economy he warned that the UK may be “buffeted” by shocks from China and other developing countries.

“That means we will do the right thing at the right time on rates.” said Mr Carney.

Mr Carney said that he would consider raising rates only when economic prospects improve. He said that three specific factors will act as a guide to when interest rates may rise.

First, that economic growth in the UK would be higher than the average trend. Second, that wage growth increases

and productivity improves. Third, that inflation starts to approach the target rate of two per cent.

He said that while these factors are a guide, “the journey doesn’t have a set timetable, only a direction of travel”.

The lecture provoked some reactions in the financial markets and the exchange rate dropped as soon as Carney reiterated that the Bank of England would not raise interest rates anytime soon. As a result, many major newspapers covered the lecture and Queen Mary featured highly in national and international news such as BBC News, The Guardian, ITV News, New York Times, The Times, Reuters and the Wall Street Journal.



*Professor Sujoy Mukerji, Head of School welcomes Mark Carney to QMUL*



*Robert Peston, ITV Political correspondent tweets the latest from the talk*



*Founder of the school, Prof. Maurice Peston at the reception following the lecture*

## Research News



Giulio Fella has been awarded, jointly with Mariacristina De Nardi from UCL, a two-year Nuffield Foundation Grant to investigate the implications of earnings risk for consumption and wealth inequality, and the potential role for social insurance policies.

Giulio is a Reader in Economics and teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate level.



George Skiadopoulos and George Kapetanios have been awarded a research grant by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME)

Foundation Group to conduct research to understand the market microstructure of the CME S&P 500 futures option market. In particular, the research will shed light on

the determinants of option prices jumps. This is a prestigious grant awarded by one of the leading Derivatives Exchanges to university professors for the purpose of funding academic research in the field of financial derivatives.

George Skiadopoulos presented a new paper on portfolio construction with commodities in the Spring 2016 Multinational Finance Conference in Lemesos (Cyprus), Alternative Investments Conference in Monaco and the CRETE 2016 Conference in Tinos (Greece).

George Skiadopoulos was invited by the CFA Society Greece and gave a talk on the topic of *"Quantitative portfolio management using information from options markets"* in Athens Greece in May 2016. More than 100 delegates from the finance industry attended the event followed by a Q&A.



In recent decades, commentators and academics have become increasingly concerned over the decline in both trust and social capital in many communities in the United States. While research has shown that race and income diversity tends to be associated with lower levels of social capital, Andrea Tesei takes a closer look, examining the relationship between trust, income inequality and racial diversity.

By studying survey responses on trust from 110 metropolitan areas from 1973 to 2010, Andrea Tesei finds that racial income inequality decreases trust within communities, and that this lack of trust is exacerbated when communities are more racially fragmented and as this inequality increases.

More information about this research is available at [www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/items/hss/151375.html](http://www.qmul.ac.uk/media/news/items/hss/151375.html)

## Mastering Metrics

SEF organised a four-day summer course in June 2016 on empirical methods and modern econometric practice by **Joshua D. Angrist**, Ford Professor of Economics at MIT. The course is based on the newly-released text, **Mastering Metrics: The Path from Cause to Effect** (<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10363.html>), by Joshua D. Angrist & Jörn-Steffen Pischke, as well as Angrist and Pischke's earlier notable book called **Mostly Harmless Econometrics** (<http://press.princeton.edu/titles/8769.html>). The course covered state-of-the-art econometric methods for the estimation of causal effects, including randomised field experiments, matching methods, instrumental variables, differences-in-differences, and regression discontinuity designs. The course included interactive sessions, problem solving, critical thinking, lunch presentations by the



participants and a seminar on "Radical recipes for school reform: testing takeovers in New Orleans and Boston". Amongst the participants were doctoral students, young researchers, and practitioners from leading universities in the UK, EU and further afield, non-



scholarly and government offices like De Nederlandsche Bank, Bank of Israel and Oxfam GB. We were pleased with the excellent feedback received from participants about the course structure, content, QM facilities and general organisation.

## Class of 2016

Congratulations to all our BSc finalists who graduated on 21 July 2016. The following received a College Prize, an award based on academic excellence:

### Drapers' Company Prize

Lorenzo Papi (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

Pani Aristophanous (BSc Economics)

### Gamble Prize

Natthaphong Thipsakunpanya (BSc Economics)

### Principal's Prize

Dhara Patel (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

Julie Michelet (BSc Economics, Finance and Management)

Stanislav Butenko (BSc Economics and Finance)

Alexander Nunn (BSc Economics)

### Corry Prize

#### (for the best 3rd Year Economics Project)

Aurela Deshishku (BSc Economics, Finance and Management)

*Bernard Corry was a professor in the Department of Economics from 1966 until his retirement in 1996, and died in January 2001. He was always a strong advocate of projects, and to mark his many contributions to the Department of Economics, QMUL, and the economics profession in the UK, his colleagues established an annual prize for the best project. The first award of this prize was made in 1997.*

The School awarded the following prizes:

**Coddington Prize** (for improvement in 1st year mathematics and statistics) awarded to: Daniel Yehuda (BSc Economics)

*Alan Coddington taught first year quantitative methods in the School and one of his students in 1966 impressed by the skill and humour which he brought to the task, established a prize of £100 in his memory to be awarded to the student showing the greatest improvement during their first year in quantitative modules.*

**Kieran Dhaliwal Prize** (for second year student based on a combination of academic merit and charity work): Shobana Sivalingam (BSc Economics, Statistics and Mathematics)

*The School of Economics and Finance has set up an annual prize in honour of Kieran Dhaliwal, who was tragically killed in 2014. Kieran was a good student and also contributed to society through some charity work: in his spare time he used to teach mathematics and economics to students from a disadvantaged background. The prize intends to reflect these two characteristics of Kieran's life and is awarded to the second year student who meets the following requirements (1) excellent academic performance in the second year; (2) evidence of contribution to society through some form of charity work.*

**Krystyna Renner Prize** (awarded to the outstanding 2nd Year Economics and Politics student) awarded to: Sara Labbate

*This prize was established by Mark Renner in 1994 in memory of his mother, and is awarded to a second year student on the basis of both effort and performance, with first preference being given to students on the Economics and Politics programme.*



## Congratulations also to the following who have successfully completed their PhD

### Dr Sujeetha Jegajeevan

Title: Macroeconomic Modelling and Forecasting for Policy Analysis

Supervisor: Professor Haroon Mumtaz

### Dr Chris Redl

Title: Essays in Macroeconomics

Supervisor: Professor Xavier Mateos-Planas

### Dr. Antonello D'Alessandro

Title: Essays on the effects of government spending in the presence of skill accumulation through Learning-by-Doing

Supervisor: Professor Giulio Fella

### Dr. Jinu Lee

Title: Essays on Neural Network Method in Nonlinear Time Series Analysis

Supervisor: Professor George Kapetanios

At the time of writing, **Barbara Masi** and **Nils Gudat** have both submitted their thesis, we await the outcome of their vivas, good luck both!



## Running Club

Every Wednesday at 12.30pm students and staff across QM participate in the running club, some members of the school run too, if you would like to join us please email [p.kent@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:p.kent@qmul.ac.uk). The group is open to all staff and students, for all levels! Runs (or jogs!) do not exceed an hour so can fit into a lunch break. We hope you can join us!

## QMSU Education Awards



Well done to the following members of staff recognised in the QM Students' Union Education Awards 2016

### Postgraduate Research Supervisor of the Year Award

### Course Rep Champion Nomination



Professor Haroon Mumtaz



Stanley Babukutty – Postgraduate Student Support Manager

### Postgraduate Teaching Award

Panagiotis Koutroumpis – Teaching Assistant

The Teaching Assistant prizes have been awarded to PhD students **Lorenzo Neri**, **Edoardo Palombo**, and **Stefania Simion**.

Lorenzo research areas of interest are applied microeconometrics, labour Economics, economics of education, policy evaluation; **Stefania** is also mainly interested in economics of education and labour Economics and **Edoardo** is researching macroeconomics,

macro-finance, financial institutions, monetary policy and banking regulation.



Teaching and Curriculum Development Committee at Undergraduate level decided four awards for excellence in teaching 2015-16. The **lecturer prize** has been awarded to **Luca Larcher**.



## Careers Update

The School of Economics and Finance's Careers Team would like to welcome all new and continuing students to the academic year 2016/2017. An exciting careers programme is in place for the coming year, including a wide range of activities and events which we hope you will all benefit from during your time here at QMUL. Our aim is to support you in achieving your career goals, and we are looking forward to working with you all this year! The School of Economics and Finance has a dedicated Careers Consultant – Cathy Balfe and Internships Co-ordinator – Nicola Persue-King. A range of activities and events are arranged on your behalf, including one-to-one careers advice sessions, careers workshops, employer fairs and events and alumni events.



Careers Consultant:  
Cathy Balfe

I joined SEF as a Careers Consultant in April 2016. I have experience of working across a wide range of financial industries,

including investment banking, corporate finance and stock trading. More recently I have focused on economics research, completing a PhD in Economics at **University College London** in 2015. This PhD study was funded by **Cemmap**, a research institute located within the **Institute for Fiscal Studies**, a leading independent economics think-tank. Prior to joining Queen Mary, I worked as a research economist at the Bank of England. I am currently studying for a post-graduate diploma in Careers Education, Information and Guidance in Higher Education at the **University of Warwick**.

My role at SEF is to support SEF students throughout their career development. This support ranges from guidance around career choice, help in **finding work experience**, advice on **how to write stand-out CVs**, **application forms** and **cover letters** and how to demonstrate your skills and competencies at **interview and assessment centres**. I hope to see many of you in the upcoming academic year in workshops, events and one-to-ones!



Internships Co-ordinator:  
Nicola Persue-King

I have enjoyed meeting many of you over the last academic year, and I am looking forward to meeting with many more of you this coming year. As your Internships

Co-ordinator I am here to **support you with finding work experience, applying for jobs and giving feedback on your applications**

**and interviews**. I source internships and jobs exclusively for SEF students, run work experience schemes, and **work with employers to collaborate and raise the profile of SEF students**.

There have been many successes over the course of the last year. I enjoyed receiving applications and meeting many of you who participated in the **Careers Taster Scheme**, a pilot scheme launched in January where SEF students had the chance to visit up to six different companies including **Barclays**, **Liberty Mutual Insurance** and **PwC** for an insight afternoon. From the excellent feedback received I am pleased to announce this scheme will be returning for the 2016/17 academic year, **applications open from October** and the scheme runs from January so keep your eyes peeled for more on this! As well as this, six first year SEF students successfully gained an internship with **Morgan Stanley**, and we have been engaging with more employers throughout the year including **JP Morgan** and **Macquarie Bank** and others who have been keen to meet SEF students for roles.

## Top tips for the start of term

### 1. Career planning – start early

Before term really gets underway and the assignments start building up – take some time to plan what type of job you want, what industry you want to work in and what steps you can take this year to increase your employability.

Many companies now offer insight days and internships for 1st and 2nd year students – these are a fantastic opportunity to try out different industries, to build your CV and to increase your network. Application deadlines start in November.

Graduate schemes start recruiting in the Autumn – some graduate schemes close as early as the end of October. Some companies also recruit on a rolling basis – apply early to ensure your application will be considered.

### 2. Build your CV

There are lots of opportunities to get some work experience on your CV while studying at QMUL.

For work experience opportunities exclusive to QMUL students including QInterns, QTemps and QProjects start your search by going to:

- QRecruit - <http://tempjobs.london.ac.uk/QueenMary/index.asp>
- JobOnline - <https://jobonline.thecareersgroup.co.uk/careersgroup/student/>
- Keep an eye out for regular opportunities circulated via email and on QMPlus from your SEF Internships Co-ordinator Nicola Persue-King.

As well as continuing the Careers Taster Scheme, this year will also see the introduction of the flagship event for students interested in careers in Economics in January 2017 with the **Government Economic Service**. I will be continuing to build on working with SEF alumni who would like to come and share their expertise so that you can hear from them. Lastly if you are a first year student in receipt of a bursary you will be eligible to apply for our insight programme with **Rothschild** which is launching in September 2016. Keep an eye on your QMPlus page and emails which will be the main ways I contact you regarding any opportunities.

At what might feel like a turbulent time due to the speculation surrounding Brexit, I wanted to briefly touch on this recent topic. The result has understandably caused a lot of uncertainty around the implications this may have on jobs and graduate jobs. My advice is that at least in the short term; try not to place great emphasis on the speculation. Data shows

that while unemployment rose during 2008 and 2009, the increase was larger among non-graduates than it was for graduates and postgraduates. As soon to be graduates, you hold a very high level of **technical and transferable skills** to the workplace and labour market. Focus on building these skills throughout the academic year, so that you are in a good position once you graduate. **Take advantage of your Careers Service** to help you find work experience, build your CV and write applications as well as attend the many events and networking opportunities with employers. Alongside your academic studies, make your career journey part of your weekly schedule.

As ever, I would love to hear your thoughts on what you would like to see in your Careers Service, and any suggestions or feedback you may have – you can contact me on [n.persue-king@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:n.persue-king@qmul.ac.uk). Likewise if you have any questions, please do get in touch with me. I look forward to meeting more of you throughout this year!

## MSc Investment and Finance ranked in global top 40



The above MSc has been ranked 37th in the world and 8th in the UK in the Financial Times Global Masters in Finance 2016, pre-experience programmes (<http://rankings.ft.com/businessschoolrankings/masters-in-finance-pre-experience2016>).

The Financial Times ranking of Masters in Finance Pre-experience ranking is based on 18 criteria. Conditions include: graduate salaries three years after graduation, diversity of the staff and student cohort (both male to female ratio, and international diversity), value for money, careers rank, placement success, employability at three months, the percentage of professors holding doctorates and international mobility.

Information about volunteering opportunities for QMUL students can be found at [www.qmsu.org/volunteering/](http://www.qmsu.org/volunteering/)

### 3. Use your Careers Service

We are here to support you in achieving your career goals.

We offer 1-to-1 career guidance sessions where we can support you with:

- Finding work experience, internships or a graduate job
- Feedback on your CV, cover letter or application form
- Interview skills – including mock interviews
- Choosing your career path

Please book in person in room WG3, ground Floor, Queens' Building or call 020 7882 8533.

### What's on – upcoming employer events & workshops

The **Focus on Finance careers event** is running throughout the first two weeks of October. This is a jam-packed fortnight of employer events and careers workshops, with companies including PwC, KPMG, Bloomberg and J.P. Morgan being represented. Events include a panel discussion on "Investment Banking: Is it for me?" and a mock assessment centre facilitated by PwC. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the wide range of opportunities available in finance, and to explore various options open to you upon graduation. Visit <https://careersandenterpriseevents.wordpress.com/> for further information.

### School of Economics and Finance Careers Workshops

A series of 5 careers workshops are planned for the autumn term. These workshops aim to help students apply for graduate jobs and internships in time for application deadlines (deadlines start from end Oct). Workshops titles are listed below:

- Career Choice & Job Search
- CVs & Applications
- Postgraduate Study
- How do Recruiters Shortlist?
- Interview Skills

Further events will be added – please keep an eye on your SEF careers emails or visit <https://careersandenterpriseevents.wordpress.com/> for more information including room locations.

## New Staff Profile



Sebastian  
Axbard

### • Please tell us a little about yourself?

I did my PhD at Uppsala University in Sweden and spent one year visiting the Department

of Economics at UC Berkeley. Prior to my doctoral studies, I worked with international development policy at the Swedish Ministry of Finance. In particular, I analysed issues discussed in the World Bank Group Executive Board and coordinated Nordic-Baltic policy positions on these issues.

### • Please tell us about your main research areas and why these interest you?

My research is empirically oriented and lies at the intersection of development economics, natural resources and political economy. I am particularly interested in understanding the determinants of illegal activities in developing countries, both at the individual level and in the government. My interest in this topic comes from numerous travels in developing countries and from working with related issues at the ministry.

### • What do you consider are the challenges with your research?

One of the key challenges in my research is finding reliable measures of the type of

economic activity that I am interested in. Observing illegal activities is difficult in most settings, but especially so in developing countries where the quality of data is often poor. Credibly identifying the driving forces behind such actions is even more demanding. This requires coming up with new approaches to collect data and answer questions, which I find to be one of the most stimulating aspects of my work.

### • What has drawn you to the School of Economics and Finance?

The academic diversity and strength in a number of areas closely related to my research interest are the main features that attracted me to the School. I was also much impressed by the work environment at the School and was warmly received by everyone that I met. I am therefore very excited to be joining in September.

### • What are your plans for the next year?

During my first year I plan to continue working on a number of projects. Some of these are a continuation of the work in my thesis and others are recently started up with co-authors in the US. I am also looking forward to get to know everyone at the School and hopefully starting up joint projects in the future.



Kiri Cragin  
Folwell

I am very pleased to be starting my new role as Marketing Manager in the School of Economics and Finance. I have been at QMUL since December 2015 as a Marketing Officer. My work has focused on

how we communicate our employability outcomes and careers services to prospective and current students. Before joining QMUL I worked for Christie's Education, part of Christie's Auction House, as a Marketing Manager promoting their undergraduate and postgraduate courses. I am looking forward to working with the SEF team and continuing to grow the quality and quantity of SEF students at QMUL.

Welcome to lecturer **Anja Prummer**

– research interests include social networks, political economy, and applied microeconomic theory. We also looking forward to welcoming **Professor Ludovic Renou** when he begins his role in the school in January 2017, a very eminent theorist from the University of Essex, with research interests in game theory, contracts and institutions.

## PhD Conference 2016

In June 2016 the School held its annual two-day PhD conference, where research students had the opportunity to present their latest research:

### Microeconomic Theory and Macroeconomics

**Maya Jalloul**, *Systemic Risk in Financial Networks: the Role of Insurance*

**Federica De Pace**, *Match-Specific Human Capital and the Consequences of job Loss*

**Mirela Miescu**, *Together in bad times? Connectedness and spillovers in recession and boom*

### Macroeconomics

**Edoardo Palombo**, *Unconventional Monetary Policy and Leverage Dynamics*

**Oswaldo Pericon Enriquez**, *Exchange rate volatility and economic activity in small open economies*

**Germano Ruisi**, *Monetary Policy Effectiveness and Macroeconomic Uncertainty across US Regions*

**Taiki Yamamura**, *Changes in Monetary Policy Transmission to Aggregate and Disaggregate Prices during the 1970s or 2000s in Japan*

**Shayan Zakipour-Saber**, *Endogenous regime change in structural general equilibrium models*

**Rubaiya Zahura Zaman Sharmi**, *Tax Cut or Increase in Transfer Benefits?*

### Econometrics

**Marcus Cobb**, *Density forecasting from disaggregate components using large VARs*

**Alessio Volpicella**, *Prior Selection for Set-Identified Structural Vector Autoregressions*

### Applied Microeconomics

**Soledad Giardili**, *Mismatch in the Brazilian Higher Education Market*

**Lorenzo Neri**, *Grading Leniency and Area Development*

**Elisabetta Pasini**, *Political attitudes on migration: asylum seekers and electoral outcomes in the UK*

### Finance

**Fabio Calonaci**, *The CAPM: Interpreting the time varying betas*

**Konstantinos Gkionis**, *What Does the Risk Neutral Skewness of Stocks with the Most Symmetric Smiles Tell us about Future Stock Returns? (in collaboration with A. Kostakis, G. Skiadopoulos, and S. Stilger)*

**Timothy Harris**, *European Municipal Bond Yields and Their Determinants*