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## **Bennett Institute Newsletter - October 2019**

The autumn term at Cambridge is one of the busiest times of the year for the Institute, with our public events in full swing. This term we look to the themes of governance, democracy and crisis, as we welcome high-profile speakers from the worlds of policy and academe, including Philip Rycroft (former Permanent Secretary of the Department for Exiting the EU), and Professors Vernon Bogdanor (King's College, London) and Alison Young (Cambridge), two of the leading experts on the British constitution, whose views on Brexit are in great demand.

We are also pleased to announce that we will shortly be producing our first set of publications emanating from our programme of research and engagement on place and public policy. Our brand-new '[Townscapes](#)' series will supply a data-driven analysis of the varying economic performance of towns across different parts of Britain, and we will also publish a series of discussion papers on the challenges associated with the development of a place-based approach to

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industrial strategy in the UK. Work will soon be announced on a major new project funded by the Nuffield Foundation, led by my colleague Professor Diane Coyle, in partnership with Open Data Institute, which will explore some major questions about how we value data.

The Bennett Institute and POLIS have also announced the appointment of a distinguished research fellow. We are delighted to welcome Philip Rycroft, who will be sharing his reflections on his time in government and thoughts on some of the major challenges facing policy-makers, at this crucial juncture in British politics. He will play a leading role at Cambridge, advising on some of our research programmes and developing and disseminating his own thinking on governance and constitution in the British context. He was welcomed to Cambridge at an event hosted by Vice-Chancellor Prof Stephen Toope on 03 October, and you can hear him speak again on 13 November when he will be responding to a talk with Vernon Bogdanor on the future of the UK beyond Brexit. [A transcript of his lecture is available here.](#)

Finally, we very recently lost a vital member of the public policy community here at Cambridge, Dr Finbarr Livesey, a lecturer in POLIS who died in [September 2019](#). Finbarr was instrumental in developing the M.Phil programme in Public Policy here, and its transformation into one of the most successful programmes of its kind in the UK and the wider world. We were delighted to publish his last piece of research on our website, a compelling argument for the [deployment of the 100K genomes database in the public interest.](#)

We are currently developing plans for an event to mark his contribution to public policy at Cambridge, and will provide more details about this as soon as they are confirmed.

Michael Kenny – Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

## News

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## Former Brexit lead joins the Bennett Institute and POLIS

Philip Rycroft, the former head of DExEU, has been appointed as a distinguished honorary researcher at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy and POLIS at the University of Cambridge.

The Institute has developed publications exploring the ramifications of Brexit for the governance of the UK and the future of the domestic union - including [two lecture transcripts](#) by Philip Rycroft, and a new briefing paper on whether Brexit will lead to the [break-up of the UK](#).

[READ MORE](#)

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## Proposes new economic century progress

Health Economy delivered a natural and social capital. Research results, the report of the direction of the implications of findings, including how we could better report on carbon emissions.

Mathew Agarwala, research leader on the project, comments: “Carbon emissions degrade natural

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capital. This new wealth economy approach forces us to think about adjusting national balance sheets according to the impacts of climate change, alongside contributions to it. Preliminary results indicate that constructing accounts from multiple perspectives – each attributing emissions to a different point on the global supply chain – is the only way to have a comprehensive understanding of the carbon footprints of nations.”

[READ THE REPORT](#)

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### **Entries open for the Bennett Prospect prize 2019**

Early career researchers and public policy professionals are invited to enter their ideas on the topic of public health for the £10,000 prize. Final entries must be in by the 31st of December 2019.

This year's question asks: 'Which single public health intervention would be most effective in the UK?'

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## **Publications**

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**Report:** [Townscapes: The North East](#)

**Briefing Paper:** [Will a no deal Brexit lead to the break-up of the UK?](#)

**Policy Brief:** [Regulation of online platforms - What can we learn from 150 years of telecoms regulation?](#)

**The Digital State:** [From City to Nation: Digital government in Argentina, 2015-2018](#)

**Wealth Economy Project on Natural and Social Capital:** [Measuring wealth, delivering prosperity](#)

## From the blog

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**Richard Pope:** [Establishing the Principles of Digital Government: Transparency, Fairness and Accessibility](#)

**Finbarr Livesey:** [Modelling the possible returns to the NHS from private sector use of the 100K genomes database](#)

**Simon Szreter, Hilary Cooper and Ben Szreter:** [Elizabethan lessons in ethical economics](#)

**Blog:** [Rentier capitalism - the UK case](#)

**Penny Mealy:** [Democratising understanding in a complex world](#)

## Events

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## Beyond Brexit - In conversation with Vernon Bogdanor

Faculty of Law LG17, Sidgwick Site, Cambridge  
13 November 2019 / 5.30pm - 6.30pm followed by drinks

Vernon Bogdanor will be speaking on his new book *Beyond Brexit*, chaired by Professor Catherine Barnard (Cambridge) with former DExEU chief Philip Rycroft and Professor Alison Young (Cambridge) as respondents.

The consequences of Brexit have been debated in primarily economic terms. This event explores its potential consequences for Britain's political system and institutions. Has Brexit triggered a wider constitutional crisis? And will its achievement lead ultimately to the break-up of Britain?

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## Policy Lecture with Pollyanna Director of Demos

...urt, Jesus College,

...m – 7.30pm

...unce that the annual  
Cambridge Public Policy Lecture will be with Polly

Mackenzie speaking on 'Post Populism: Towards a new democratic settlement'.

Polly is the Chief Executive of Demos.

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### **PARTNER EVENT: Prospero's Practicum - Conjuring the 4th Industrial Revolution on an Even Smaller Island**

St John's Divinity School, Cambridge  
28 October 2019/ 5.30pm - 6.45pm

The 2019 Dr Seng Tee Lee Lecture will be delivered by Jacqueline Poh, Deputy Secretary, Prime Minister's Strategy Group, Singapore. Chaired by Professor Stephen Toope, Vice Chancellor, University of Cambridge.

This event is hosted by The Centre for Science and Policy.

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## **Staff activity**

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## Professor Diane Coyle

### Publications

- Recent Project Syndicate papers: "[The Puzzle of Economic Progress](#)", "[Why Economics Must Go Digital](#)"
- Authored AEA Journal of Economic Literature paper "[Measuring Progress: A Review Essay on The Pricing of Progress: Economic Indicators and the Capitalization of American Life by Eli Cook](#)"
- Recent FT papers: "[Something is seriously awry in the world of work](#)", "[Why we should measure national wealth in assets](#)", "[How much data is a gold mine worth?](#)"
- Co-authored ESCoE working paper "No Factory, No problem" with David Nguyen
- Bennett Institute working paper "Practical competition policy tools for digital platforms"

### Events

- Held invited lecture "[Changing technology, changing economics](#)" at the Oxford Martin School
- Attended conference at the Society of Economic Measurement, Frankfurt, 16 August
- Attended Irish Government Digital Summit, 20 September
- European commission at the European Research & Innovation Days event, Brussels, 24 September

### Other activity

- Appointed to the Royal Society's Science Policy Expert Advisory Committee

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## Professor Michael Kenny

### Publications

- Social Science & Medicine (236) Article: "[Public acceptability of nudging and taxing to reduce consumption of alcohol, tobacco and food: A](#)"
-

[population-based survey experiment](#)" with Public Institute of Health colleagues Jake Reynolds, Stephanie Archer, Mark Pilling, Gareth Hollands and Theresa Marteau

- Book Chapter: "Brexit and the Anglosphere" with Nick Pearce, in *Embers of Empire in Brexit Britain*, edited by Stuard Ward and Astrid Rausch
- Authored Bennett Institute blog post "[Will a no deal Brexit lead to the break-up of the UK?](#)"

#### Events

- Delivered talk "Governance or government? How should researchers understand the policy process?" to the Institute for Public Health's Bradford Hills seminar series, 7 June
- Invited to speak at a symposium for senior UK government officials, on the governance of the UK, 10 June
- Spoke at a dinner organised as part of the Cambridge Hong Kong Engagement Series in Hong Kong, 19 June
- Spoke at the CSaP annual conference at the Royal Society in London, responding to a talk delivered by Philip Rycroft, former Permanent Secretary of the Department for Exiting the EU, 26 June
- Hosted co-organised workshop with CSaP featuring academic specialists and officials from the UK government's Cities and Local Growth Unit, the Greater Manchester Authority and South Cambridgeshire County Council, on local area industrial strategies and the challenges of place, 8 July

#### Other activity

- Interviewed regarding no deal Brexit on Al Jazeera TV

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## Dimitri Zenghelis

#### Publications

- Interim Report of the Wealth Economy project on Social and Natural Capital "[Measuring wealth, measuring prosperity](#)"
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- Authored blog post for Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics, "[Why the Chancellor's statement on the cost of a net-zero transition in the UK could imperil the country's climate ambitions](#)", 6 June
- Authored Lombard Odier blog post "[Capital Offence - focusing on GDP rather than wealth jeopardises the future](#)", 27 June
- Book Chapter: "Path dependence, innovation and the economics of climate change" with Philippe Aghion, Cameron Hepburn and Alexander Teytelboym, edited by Roger Fouquet, 26 July
- FT letter "Zero-carbon future offers great possibilities", 10 June
- Authored Lombard Odier blog post "[The future matters, so discount it with care](#)", 22 August
- Authored LSE blog post "[Don't be fooled: the last thing Johnson wants is a no-deal Brexit](#)", 2 August
- Co-authored book "[Beyond Stranded Assets: Climate Strategies of Fossil Fuel-Dependent Countries](#)" with Grzegorz Peszko, Dominique van der Mensbrugghe, Alexander Golub, John Ward, Cor Marijs, Anne Schopp, John Rogers and Amelia Midgley

#### Events

- Chaired a session on the event "Investing in a Net Zero Carbon Future"
- Attended conference committee for The Global Research Alliance for Sustainable Finance and Investment in Oxford
- Panel at the Big Tent Ideas Festival talking about "How do we repurpose Capitalism for the Planet?"

#### Other activity

- [Co-authored letter to Secretaries of State](#) linking cleantech and AI in support of an International Centre for AI, Energy and Climate, 19 August

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## Matthew Agarwala

#### Events

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- Presented "Carbon accounting for sustainability measurement" at the Bennett Institute Brown Bag Seminar, 4 June, the Energy Policy Research Group, Judge Business School, 11 June, and at BioEcon XXI, Wageningen, 12 September
  - Presented "Nature, Inc." with Raphael Markellos at the International Synopsium in Finance, Crete, 26 July
  - Presented "Accounting for sustainability under globalization" at the International Synopsium in Finance, Crete, 28 July
  - Attended Forum of Experts on SEEA Experimental Ecosystem Accounting at UN invitation, Glen Cove NY, 26-27 June
  - Attended Technical Expert Meeting on the revision of the System of Environmental Economics Accounts at UN invitation, Glen Cove NY, 26-27 June
  - Attended as economics advisor for the Inaugural Cambridge Global Conversation on Ethics and Climate Change, Jesus College, 6-7 July
  - Cambridge Alumni Festival 2019 programme "Where in the world is your Carbon Footprint?", 28 September
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## Dr Penny Mealy

### Publications

- Co-authored Cornell University General Economics working paper "[Automation and occupational mobility: A data-driven network model](#)" with R Maria del Rio-Chanona, Mariano Beguerisse-Díaz, Francois Lafond and J Doyne Farmer

### Events

- Lecture "New Economic Thinking in a Complex World" held at the Mind in Progress conference, Hamburg, June
  - Presented "To the Post-Carbon World or Bust" at the LSE Synopsium on Technical Change, Innovation and Climate, July
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- Presented "Finding clarity in complex industrial landscapes" at the Center for Science and Policy workshop for MHCLG/BEIS on place-based industrial strategy, July
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## Jack Sheldon

### Events

- Gave a presentation on the May government, Brexit and the territorial constitution, drawing on work for the Between Two Unions project, at the Centre for European Studies annual conference, Madrid, 22 June
  - Attended ECPR Standing Group on Parliaments Summer School, submitted award-winning paper "Substantive representation of sub-state territories in central legislatures: Towards a framework for analysis", 23 July-2 August
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## Dr Linday Aquí

### Events

- Delivered a seminar to the Department for Exiting the European Union, focusing on contingency planning done during the 1975 referendum
- Gave a paper at the British International History Group annual conference, focusing on contingency planning done during the 1975 referendum

### Other activity

- Awarded an ESRC Postdoctoral Fellowship; will be taken at the Bennett Institute by October 2020, and will involve finishing and publishing the book "The First Referendum: Reassessing Britain's Entry to Europe, 1973-75"
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