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Bennett Institute News - October 2018

Since our launch in April 2018 we have had a busy few months building partnerships with outstanding academics and institutes across the University, and hiring the first cohort of researchers to support our research programmes. These are currently: place and public policy; well-being and progress; and science and policy.

At our launch conference we declared our aim of establishing a world-class policy centre committed both to deepening understanding of some of the most pressing challenges of our turbulent times, and to identifying and exploring sustainable solutions to them. Our first report *Remaking Public Policy in the 21st Century*, which distils some of the key ideas from the event, is available in the publications section below.

To achieve our aims, we need to understand the determinants of success or failure in public policy, and the underlying dynamics of decision-making. We are holding a day-long conference on 14th November on these themes and warmly invite you to attend.

The research programmes we have developed are interdisciplinary, seeking insights from, politics, economics, humanities, public health, technology, engineering and science. You can get a sense of the kinds of challenge we want to understand and the kinds of solutions we want to explore by following our [publications](#), [news](#) and [blogs](#), and taking part in our [events](#).

We look forward to hearing from you and also seeing you at some of our events over the next few months.

Michael Kenny – Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

News



Governmental

and Jack Sheldon are joint authors of a report by Nicola McEwen and Dr. Michael Kenny of Edinburgh University, of a major report on the ways of reforming inter-governmental relations in the UK, which is soon to be published. Drafted in the light of the recent Brexit negotiations – the report touches on key issues such as the tensions caused by the repatriation of powers to the UK in areas that are the responsibility of devolved governments and the question of how England should be represented in inter-governmental negotiations.



Six Capitals research project

Professor Diane Coyle is about to undertake a major new research project exploring social and natural capital funded by LetterOne. The project follows on from Diane's co-authored Indigo Prize essay which presented an argument for evolving the Six Capitals (physical, financial, intangible, human, natural and social) into standard economic statistics. The project is soon to be announced in full.



Public Policy Prize

magazine we have launched
n to early career policy
The question we are
ill enable left behind
places to catch-up?"

Entries are open until 31 December 2018. Click below for more details on how to apply.

[READ MORE](#)



Bennett Studentship

We are delighted to announce a new studentship to support future policy researchers, funded by our benefactor Mr Peter Bennett. The Bennett Studentship is available for students actively applying for a PhD at Cambridge with a policy focus in subjects including politics, international relations, law, economics, history and geography.



and our first three
rs Dr Ying Jin, Dr Flavio
ang. We will be working to
hey draw out and deepen
their research.

- Yan will be focusing on the challenge of urban development in China and the role of smart cities in particular.
 - Flavio will be conducting research on two projects: analysis of the effects and management of 'herd immunity' in populations, and the economics of retail competition.
 - Ying specialises in the use of advanced data analytics and computer simulation modelling for urban planning. He will be
-

exploring the public policy dimensions of
this research.

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Publications

Conference report: [Remaking Public Policy in the 21st century](#)

Working paper: [Practical competition policy tools for digital platforms](#)

Working paper: [The Imperial Treasury: appraisal methodology and regional economic performance in the UK](#)

From the blog

Martin Stanley - [The fear driving increased regulation](#)

Diane Coyle - [Not the new oil: the real value of data](#)

Penny Mealy - [Towards practical wisdom in a complex world](#)

Krittika D'Silva - [Predicting venue closure with data](#)

Events



Improving our diets: More freedom or more control?

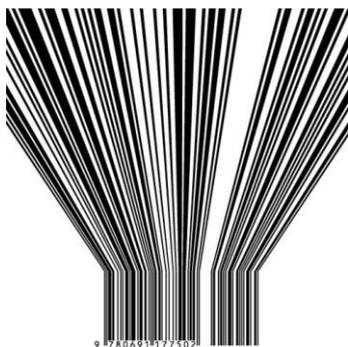
McCrum Lecture Theatre, Benet Street
23 October 2018 / 5.30pm – 7pm

In partnership with the Centre for Diet and Activity Research (CEDAR)

Chair: Prof Mike Kenny, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Panel: Dr Jean Adams, CEDAR, Dr Thomas Burgoine, CEDAR, Prof Mike Kelly, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, former Director of the Centre for Public Health at the National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE), Prof Jaideep Prabhu, Judge Business School

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Rooting Capitalism in a Just Society

Lecture with Diane Coyle,
Bennett Institute for Public Policy

McCrum Lecture Theatre,
Benet Street, 9 West Road
Cambridge

[READ MORE](#)



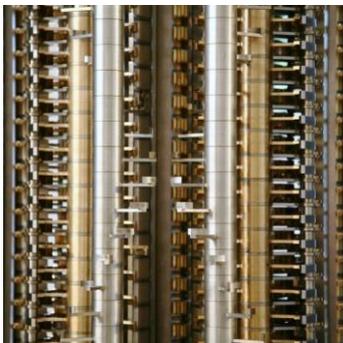
Policy Success and Failure: Embedding Effective Learning in Government

Day workshop with plenary from the Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP

St Catharine's College, Cambridge

14 November 2018 / 9am - 7pm

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Cogs and Monsters: economists, experts and measuring progress

Inaugural lecture with Diane

Coyle, Bennett Professor of Public Policy

SG1 & 2, Alison Richard Building, Cambridge

20 November 2018 / 5pm

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Andrew Haldane, Chief Economist, Bank of England

The Cambridge Public Policy lecture
Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge
3 December 2018 / 5.30pm – 7.30pm

[READ MORE](#)



Tech States podcast

We have developed a podcast series involving leading digital policymakers and public policy professionals.

This explores the complex, exciting and at times concerning relationship between government, politics, and digital and emerging technologies.

- Innovative Government for the 'Start-up Nation' with Shai-lee Spigelman, CEO of Digital Israel - [LISTEN ON ACAST](#)
-

- Russell Davies, former Director of Strategy for the UK Government Digital Service (GDS) - [LISTEN ON ACAST](#)

Staff activity

Professor Diane Coyle

Speaking appointments:

- G7 Finance Ministers meeting, Whistler - June 2018
- UK-Canada Roundtable on Data and the Economy - September 2018
- OECD session on New Approaches to Economic Challenges, Paris - September 2018

Conferences attended:

- Presented at the annual conference of the International Association for Research on Income and Wealth, Copenhagen - August 2018
- Presenting at Bank of Belgium conference - End October 2018

Lectures:

- Cambridge at Hay series - May 2018
- Talk to Government Economic Service Alumni Network
- Talk at WIRED Smarter conference

Publications:

- Three journal articles published - in *Economica*, the *Journal of Economic Literature*, and the *Journal of Economic Methodology*
- Articles for Project Syndicate and Financial Times

Further activities:

- Regular Council of Economic Advisers meetings
 - Appointed to government's Expert Panel on Digital Competition - reporting March 2019
-

- Meetings of independent economic panel advising Greater Manchester/BEIS local industrial strategy
 - Cambridge and Peterborough Independent Economic Review - reported September 2018
-

Professor Michael Kenny

Speaking appointments:

- International conference on the role of Empire and nation in the shaping of Brexit, at the Garrison Library in Gibraltar - September 2018
- Talk on 'The Anglosphere in British Politics', Tony Blair Institute in London, with co-author Nick Pearce - August 2018
- Professor Kenny will give a talk to the Wolfson College Humanities Series on 'The Anglosphere Tradition in British Politics' - 27 November 2018

Publications:

- Co-authored a new book 'Shadows of Empire' with Nick Pearce, Director of the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Bath
- Co-edited 'Governing England: English Identity and Institutions in a Changing United Kingdom', published by the British Academy and Oxford University Press, with support from the Carnegie UK Trust - launching 4 December 2018

Further activities:

- Meeting of the scientific advisory board for the 'Behaviour Change by Design' research programme, directed by Professor Theresa Marteau at the University of Cambridge - 27 September 2018
-

Dr Penny Mealy

- Presented the Bennett Institute project 'Practical Wisdom in a Complex World' at the Santa Fe Institute workshop on 'The growing gap between our physical and social technologies' – August 2018
-

- Attended the Altius conference on 'Educating for the Future: Empowering the Human Mind, and Redefining Values and Citizenship in the Age of Technological Disruption' – September 2018
 - Co-organised an interdisciplinary summer school in economic networks at Oxford University
-

Dr Tanya Filer

Speaking appointments:

- European Govtech Summit, Paris - November 2018
- Disrupting Bureaucracies, South Summit, Madrid - October 2018
- "'Nobody every got fired for buying IBM": Can governments really embrace digital innovation, and should they?', Cambridge Alumni Festival - September 2018

Publications:

- 'Govtech Requires Many Relationships of Trust', Cambridge Perspectives on Trust and Technology, University of Cambridge - September 2018
- 'Developing AI for Government: What role and limits for the private sector?' World Economic Forum Agenda - June 2018
- 'It's Time to Make Govtech Work for the Public Good', Wired - April 2018
- 'The Hidden and The Revealed: Styles of Political Conspiracy Theory in Kirchnerism', Conspiracy Theories and the People Who Believe in Them, ed. Joe Uscinski (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Other activities:

- Served on the Council on the Future of Information and Entertainment at the World Economic Forum
-

Jack Sheldon

- Quoted on BBC news on the possibility of an English Parliament - June ([READ MORE](#))
-

- Guest blog article for the Constitution Unit on possible ways that England might gain representation in intergovernmental relations – August
 - Upcoming chapter on English Parliament (co-authored with Meg Russell) due to be published in 'Governing England: English Identity and Institutions in a Changing United Kingdom'
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