Bennett Institute for Public Policy
Annual Conference
Friday 22 March 2024 | Churchill College, Cambridge / Online

Explore real-world solutions to some of the biggest public policy challenges facing governments and citizens today.
PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>SESSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09:00–09:45</td>
<td>Registration and refreshments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09:45–10:00  | Michael Kenny, Professor of Public Policy and Inaugural Director, Bennett Institute for Public Policy  
Peter Bennett, Founding Benefactor, Peter Bennett Foundation |

10:00–11:15 DISRUPTION

CHAIR: Diane Coyle, Bennett Professor of Public Policy and Co-Director, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

SPEAKERS:
- Emran Mian, Director General for Digital Technologies and Telecoms, Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology (DSIT)
- Gina Neff, Executive Director, Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy, University of Cambridge
- Brittany Smith, UK Policy and Partnerships Lead, OpenAI

11:15–11:45 Refreshments and networking

11:45–13:00 INFRASTRUCTURE

CHAIR: Michael Kenny, Professor of Public Policy and Inaugural Director, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

SPEAKERS:
- Greg Clark, Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells, House of Commons, and former UK Government Minister
- Jennifer Schooling, Professor of Digital Innovation and Smart Places, ARU
- Giles Wilkes, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government, and Specialist Partner, Flint Global

13:00–14:00 Lunch

14:00–15:15 RESILIENCE

CHAIR: Matthew Agarwala, Economist, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

SPEAKERS:
- Catherine Little, Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury, and Head of the Government Finance Function
- Gillian Tett, Provost, King’s College, Cambridge and Columnist and Editorial Board Member, Financial Times
- Anna Valero, Distinguished Policy Fellow and Director of the Growth Programme, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics (LSE)

15:15–15:45 Refreshments and networking

15:45–17:00 GOVERNANCE

CHAIR: Dennis C. Grube, Professor of Public Policy, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

SPEAKERS:
- Anjana Ahuja, Science Commentator, Financial Times, and Freelance Journalist
- Jonathan Slater, Visiting Professor, King’s College London, and Queen Mary’s University London and former UK Government Minister
- Hannah White, Director and CEO, Institute for Government

17:00–17:15 Short break

17:15–17:20 Bennett Public Policy Prize 2024 winner announcement

SPEAKER: Fiona Reynolds, Chair of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy Management Board

17:20–18:20 KEYNOTE LECTURE

CHAIR: Deborah Prentice, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge

SPEAKER: Henry Dimbleby, Co-Founder of Leon, Food Campaigner, Speaker and Non-Executive Director

18:20 CLOSING REMARKS

18:30–19:30 Drinks reception
What actions are needed to respond to the social, economic and geopolitical disruptions being caused by significant technological innovations in areas such as AI and biomedicine? How can policymakers not only manage the risks but also ensure the new technologies benefit society as a whole?

With rapid advancements in artificial intelligence and telecommunications and the growing importance of data in our decision-making, we are witnessing a period of significant digital disruption. The resource-intensive nature of these technologies has also created a growing divide between the leaders and the followers, and the winners and the losers.

Experts will discuss how the current disruption materialises socially, economically, and geopolitically. This is not the first wave of disruption in recent history, so how can we learn from earlier examples, and is it different this time? How can policymakers not only manage the risks, but ensure the new technologies benefit society as a whole?

CHAIR:

Prof Diane Coyle DBE
Bennett Professor of Public Policy and Co-Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Prof Diane Coyle is the Bennett Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge. She co-directs the Bennett Institute of Public Policy where she heads research under the themes of progress and productivity. Diane is also a Director of the Productivity Institute, a Fellow of the Office for National Statistics, an expert adviser to the National Infrastructure Commission, and a Senior Independent Member of the ESRC Council. Prior to this she served in public service roles including as Vice Chair of the BBC Trust. She has authored over 200 articles and 10 books, and in 2023, was awarded a DBE for her contribution to the public understanding of economics.

SPEAKERS:

Emran Mian CB OBE
Director General for Digital Technologies and Telecoms, Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT)

Emran Mian is the Director General for Digital Technologies and Telecoms at the Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT). He was Director General for Regeneration at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, from September 2021 to July 2023. Prior to this he was the Director of Strategy and then a Director General at the Department for Education. Before returning to the Civil Service in 2017, Emran ran the Social Market Foundation, an independent public policy think tank that works across a range of economic and social policy issues.

Prof Gina Neff
Executive Director, Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy, University of Cambridge

Prof Gina Neff runs the University of Cambridge’s Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy. Her award-winning research focuses on how digital information is changing our work and everyday lives. She led the team who won the 2021 Webby for the Internet’s best educational website, the A to Z of AI, which has reached over one million people in 17 different languages. Her books include Venture Labor (MIT Press 2012), Self-Tracking (MIT Press 2016) and Human-Centered Data Science (MIT Press 2022).

Brittany Smith
UK Policy and Partnerships Lead, OpenAI

Brittany Smith is the Head of UK Policy and Partnerships at OpenAI. Brittany has held roles working at the intersection of AI and equity in industry, civil society, and philanthropy. Most recently, she was a Program Officer on AI2050, a philanthropic initiative within Schmidt Futures designed to support multi-disciplinary research on beneficial AI. Prior to joining Schmidt Futures, Brittany was the Policy Director at Data & Society Research Institute, a nonprofit research institute challenging the power and purpose of technology in society. She is a member of the Board of Directors of Partnership on AI, and graduated from Northwestern University and the London School of Economics.

bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/productivity
**Prof Michael Kenny**  
Professor of Public Policy and Inaugural Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Prof Michael Kenny is Professor of Public Policy, and the Inaugural Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy at the University of Cambridge where he leads the Institute's place and public policy programme. He is a visiting Fellow at the UCL Constitution Unit, a Fellow of the UK’s Academy of Social Sciences, and holds advisory positions with the Constitution Society, the ‘Behaviour Change by Design’ project, and ‘The Science of Global Risk’ project. His research includes leading projects on left-behind communities, social infrastructure and devolution, and the future of the UK constitution. His latest book is, *Fractured Union: Politics, Sovereignty, and the Fight to Save the UK*, published by Hurst in 2024.

---

**Rt Hon Greg Clark MP**  
Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells, House of Commons and former UK Government Minister

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP is Member of Parliament for Tunbridge Wells, Chair of the Science and Technology Committee and a Japan Envoy. Joining the Cabinet in 2015, having held positions in HM Treasury and the then Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, he served in the last Parliament as Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and more recently in 2022 as Minister for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Prior to his election in 2005, Greg was a business consultant with Boston Consulting Group before becoming Special Advisor to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Greg was educated at Cambridge University and awarded his PhD at the London School of Economics.

---

**Prof Jennifer Schooling**  
Professor of Digital Innovation and Smart Places, ARU (Anglia Ruskin University)

Prof Jennifer Schooling is Professor of Digital Innovation and Smart Places at ARU. Her research explores the sociotechnical aspects of digitalisation at the city scale, focusing on governance and ethical innovation to enable delivery of digital solutions for public value creation. She is on the Secure Connected Places Advisory Board for the UK government’s Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) and the Infrastructure Client Group's Digital Transformation Task Group.

---

**Giles Wilkes**  
Senior Fellow at the Institute for Government, Specialist Partner at Flint Global

After a decade spent in the financial dealing industry, Giles Wilkes shifted across to public policy via a Masters in Global Economic History, with stints at think tanks along the way. From 2010 to 2014 Giles was Vince Cable’s special adviser on policy at the department for Business Innovation and Skills; after two years writing business, economic and political comment for the Financial Times, he was hired into Downing Street to fill a similar position for Theresa May when she was prime minister. Since her departure from No. 10 Giles has worked at Flint and the Institute for Government on a range of policy questions.
Dr Matthew Agarwala
Economist and Project Lead for the Wealth Economy, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Dr Matthew Agarwala is an economist and the Project Lead for the Wealth Economy project at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. His research looks at measuring and delivering sustainability, wellbeing and productivity. Matthew’s research is motivated by the belief that 21st century progress cannot be described by 20th century statistics. He regularly consults for governments and scientific organisations on topics of natural capital, ecosystem services, green finance, wellbeing, and sustainability. He is also a regular media contributor to BBC News, Bloomberg, NY Times, FT, Guardian, The Times, and Channel 4 News.

Catherine Little CB
Second Permanent Secretary, HM Treasury, and Head of the Government Finance Function

Catherine Little started her career at the accountancy firm PwC before moving to the Civil Service in 2013. She joined HM Treasury in 2020 as Director General Public Spending and became Second Permanent Secretary in October 2022. She combines these roles with her positions as Head of the Government Finance Function and Chair of the Finance Leadership Group for Government. In April 2024, Cat will take up the role of Civil Service Chief Operating Officer and Permanent Secretary to the Cabinet Office. She is a chartered public finance accountant and is a co-opted member of CIPFA Council.

Dr Gillian Tett OBE
Provost, King’s College, Cambridge, and Columnist and Editorial Board Member, Financial Times

Dr Gillian Tett is currently Provost of King’s College, Cambridge, while also writing a weekly op-ed column for the Financial Times on global finance and business. She is also a member of the FT’s Editorial Board, having previously been Chairman of the US Editorial Board and America Editor-at-Large. An anthropologist by training, she is the author of, among other books, *AnthroVision: A New Way to See in Business and Life* and the New York Times bestseller *Fool’s Gold: How Unrestrained Greed Corrupted a Dream, Shattered Global Markets and Unleashed a Catastrophe*. She has an undergraduate degree and PhD in Social Anthropology from the University of Cambridge.

Dr Anna Valero
Distinguished Policy Fellow and Director of the Growth Programme, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics (LSE)

Dr Anna Valero is a Distinguished Policy Fellow and Director of the Growth Programme at the LSE’s Centre for Economic Performance, Deputy Director of the Programme on Innovation and Diffusion (POID) and an Associate of the Grantham Research Institute, LSE. Her research is focused on the drivers of productivity and innovation in firms and regions. She also works on UK policy more broadly, with a focus on identifying and realising sustainable and inclusive growth opportunities in the transition to Net Zero. Anna obtained a PhD in Economics at the LSE in 2018. Previously, she worked at Deloitte, where she qualified as an ACA.

RESILIENCE

What do our institutions need to do to make the UK more resilient?

It often seems policies are developed in real time in reaction to ever-changing geopolitical events. Experts will discuss how the UK’s institutions – business, policy, and civil society – can help proactively shape resilience to domestic and international shocks and firm-up socio-economic stability. They’ll explore the investment priorities for building economic, political, and social resilience, even in the face of climate change, inflation, war and inequality, and suggest real-world policy solutions.
How should the Civil Service be reformed/reimagined for the 21st century?

The Northcote Trevelyan Report of 1854 is seen as the foundation document for the UK Civil Service. The pillars it established have shaped the institution ever since. But much has changed in the 170 years since that report’s publication. The size, sophistication, and range of responsibilities of the Civil Service are immensely different. So too is the governing context, in which social media, a 24/7 news media, rapid technological change, a less trusting public and a hyper-partisan political environment are re-shaping the boundaries of what is possible and what is expected. In the midst of so much change, is it time for a fundamental rethink - a new 'Northcote Trevelyan' moment - to capture the essence of what the Civil Service is now for and what we want it to be able to do?

CHAIR:

Prof Dennis C. Grube
Professor of Politics and Public Policy and Research Lead in Political Decision-making, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Prof Dennis C. Grube is Professor of Politics and Public Policy at the University of Cambridge, and research lead in political decision-making at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. Themes include institutional memory as an aid to better decision-making, decision-making structures in government and expertise and the politics of evidence-based policymaking. Dennis teaches on the MPhil in Public Policy and leads a course on rhetorical leadership for the MPhil in Politics and International Studies. He has authored and co-authored six books to date, his latest being, *Why Governments Get it Wrong: And how They Can get it Right*, published by Pan Macmillan, 2022.

SPEAKERS:

Dr Anjana Ahuja
Science Columnist, Financial Times, and Freelance Journalist

Dr Anjana Ahuja, formerly a staff writer at The Times, writes a weekly opinion column on science, technology and health for the FT, covering the full range of research topics (AI, space, genomics, ageing, climate, pandemics) and their wider implications, including for policy. With Sage adviser Sir Jeremy Farrar, she co-authored the bestselling *Spike: The Virus Vs The People*, shortlisted for the Royal Society Science Book Prize and the George Orwell Prize for Political Writing. She gives talks on behalf of Speakers for Schools, which champions social mobility. Anjana has a PhD in space physics from Imperial College London.

Jonathan Slater
Visiting Professor, King’s College London and Queen Mary’s University London and former UK Government Minister

Jonathan Slater is a Visiting Professor at King’s College London and Queen Mary’s University London. He chairs the board of the Charter Schools Educational Trust and is a governor of Sheffield Hallam University. Jonathan was Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education until 2020, at the conclusion of a 20-year civil service career that included Justice, Defence, the Cabinet Office and No.10. Before that Jonathan worked in local government for over 10 years, ending up as Director of Education and Deputy Chief Executive at Islington Council, though his career actually started as a mathematical modeller for British Rail.

Dr Hannah White OBE
Director and CEO, Institute for Government

Dr Hannah White is the Director of the Institute for Government. She leads the Institute’s work to make government more effective. Hannah is a regular commentator on the radio and television and writes regularly for a wide range of print media. She hosts the Institute’s weekly Insider Briefing podcast and chairs UKICE. Hannah also serves as deputy chair of trustees for the public participation and deliberation charity Involve. She received an OBE in the 2020 Birthday Honours for services to the constitution, and in April 2022 she published her first book *Held in Contempt: what’s wrong with the House of Commons?*
As the nation grapples with the intertwined challenges of health, sustainability, and social equity, Henry Dimbleby has been at the forefront of advocating for healthier eating habits and systemic change. He led the Government’s School Food Plan (2013) and the National Food Strategy (2021) emphasising health, sustainability, and social responsibility. Yet, despite some progress, he resigned as a government advisor in 2023 citing concerns over policy translation.

Henry will discuss how, through collaboration and innovation, he continues to commit to transforming the food landscape.

Prof Deborah Prentice
Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge

Prof Deborah Prentice became the University of Cambridge’s 347th Vice-Chancellor on 1 July 2023. An eminent psychologist, Deborah carried out her academic and administrative career at Princeton University, which she first joined in 1988. She rose through the academic ranks and took on administrative responsibilities of increasing scope, chairing the Department of Psychology for 12 years, serving as Dean of Faculty for three years, and then serving six years as Provost, with primary responsibility for all academic, budgetary, and long-term planning issues. Her academic expertise is in the study of social norms that govern human behaviour – particularly the impact and development of unwritten rules and conventions, and how people respond to breaches of those rules.

Henry Dimbleby MBE
Co-Founder of Leon, Food Campaigner, Speaker and Non-Executive Director

Henry Dimbleby MBE is the co-founder of Leon, food campaigner, speaker and non-executive director. Henry also co-founded the Sustainable Restaurant Association and the charity Chefs in Schools, which brings restaurant chefs into school kitchens. In 2013, he co-authored The School Food Plan, a blueprint for government setting out actions to transform what children eat in schools and how they learn about food. He is the author of Ravenous: How to get ourselves and our planet into shape, published in 2023, which builds on the work he did in the independent National Food Strategy 2021. From 2018 to 2023, Dimbleby was the lead non-executive board member of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, serving under a Conservative government. He has also advised the Labour party on how to improve the sustainability and security of the food system.

Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE
Chair of the Management Board, Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Dame Fiona Reynolds DBE, is Chair of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy Management Board. She is the Chair of the National Audit Office, and the Governing Council of the Royal Agricultural University. Dame Fiona is the former Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge (2012-2021) having come to the College after a long career in the voluntary and public sectors, latterly as Director-General of the National Trust from 2001-2012. Dame Fiona also holds a number of non-executive roles. She is a Trustee of the Grosvenor Estate, a Non-Executive Director of Wessex Water, Chair of the Green Alliance, the International National Trusts Organisation, the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England and Cambridge University’s Botanic Garden. She is a member of the Advisory Panel for the Dasgupta Review of the Economics of Biodiversity.

Peter Bennett
Founding benefactor of the Peter Bennett Foundation

Peter Bennett is the founding benefactor of the Peter Bennett Foundation (2013), and the Bennett Institute for Public Policy (2018). Graduating in 1978, he read Economics at Churchill College. Following a successful career in banking and hedge fund management, Peter now devotes his time to pursuing philanthropic endeavours to promote equality and reduce poverty through direct donations and institutional support. The Peter Bennett Foundation also established the Bennett Institute for Applied Data Science at The University of Oxford (2021).

More recently, the Foundation has supported the new Whittle Laboratory (2022), with the establishment of The Bennett Innovation Laboratory, a radical multidisciplinary innovation centre that brings together world-leading experts to solve complex challenges, the Science Museum (2023) and the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex (2023).
RESEARCH PROJECT POSTERS

By addressing pressing policy challenges through rigorous research and analysis, the Bennett Institute contributes to informed decision-making processes at different levels of governance and society.

Our researchers look forward to discussing their work with you during the hospitality breaks.

Ayantola Alayande
Research Assistant
Industrial policy and regulatory changes in the UK’s Pharmaceutical, Finance and Creative Industries
Our research examines the scope of the UK government's industrial policy instruments (e.g. R&D investment, tax credits, and subsidies) and the timeline of regulatory changes in the pharmaceutical, finance and creative industries in the last three to four decades to show that, contrary to traditional economic narrative, the UK is an active promoter of industrial policies akin to its peers.

Steph Coulter
Research Assistant
Review of the UK constitution
Beginning in February 2022, the Bennett Institute, in collaboration with the Institute for Government, embarked upon a large-scale review of the UK’s post-Brexit constitutional arrangements. The project saw us produce five original research papers, commission 15 insight pieces by constitutional experts and host several events, including a conference, in a bid to stimulate debate on the future of the UK constitution.

Stella Erker
Research Assistant
A universal basic infrastructure for the UK
Too many people in the UK are living in places where their economic opportunities and quality of life are 'left behind'. Our research explores the state of infrastructure provision in the UK, and how a universal basic infrastructure improves the trajectories of places and wellbeing of communities.

Lucy Hampton
Research Assistant
The role of knowledge production in the UK’s economic divergence
Economic theory has highlighted the importance of knowledge for long-run economic growth. But what type of knowledge creation occurs and where? In this work-in-progress, we investigate the role of knowledge composition in the UK’s spatial economic inequality.

Dr Nina Jörden
Research Associate
Pathways towards "GOOD WORK"
The frequently debated yet inadequately understood link between productivity and wellbeing is essential for fostering meaningful work across individuals, organisations, and society. Our research aims to provide a solid empirical basis for this hypothesis in the post-COVID era.

Filip Mandys
Research Associate
The UK computing sector
Our work is analysing the current state of the UK computing sector and its subsectors, within both computer hardware and software. Our focus is on evaluating sectoral productivity, comparing the UK with other countries, and identifying the key opportunities and challenges.

Rosa Marks
Research Assistant
Private sector social infrastructure
The Bennett Institute and Power to Change are undertaking a joint research project to explore how spaces in private ownership serve as social infrastructure, how communities can play a role in shaping these spaces, and how policy can support it.

Burcu Sevde Selvi
Research Assistant
Exploring sectoral relatedness in East Anglia
The focus of this study is an exploration of the spatial and sectoral dimensions of productivity. To contribute to the efforts to understand the underlying reasons for slow productivity growth in East Anglia, we measure sectoral relatedness using network analysis.

Read more about these projects on the Bennett Institute for Public Policy website. bennettinstitute.cam.ac.uk/research/research-projects