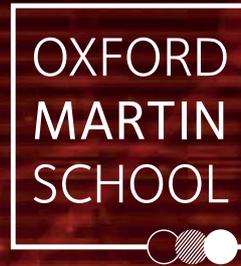
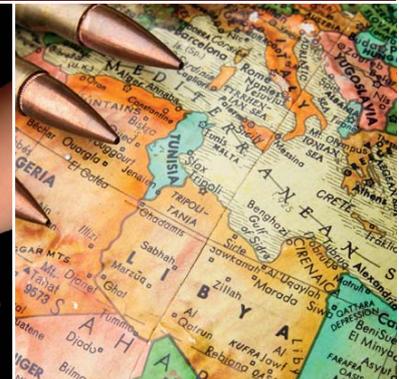
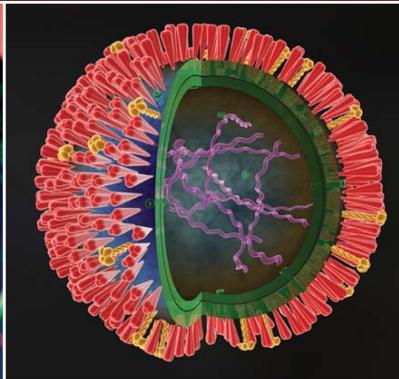


SPRING 2011 – ISSUE 10



JAMES MARTIN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL

Newsletter



What do we owe future generations?

INFLUENCE IN-DEPTH » IN THE NEWS... » EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Dear Friends,

Spring is in the Oxford air, and the first quarter of 2011 has seen the pace of achievements at the Oxford Martin School accelerating. Our academics have been active in enhancing the impact of their innovative research. Over the past three months, they have given keynote speeches on the impact of increasing human longevity; published high impact reports on the effectiveness of international forest governance; held an interdisciplinary conference on new kinds of intelligence; and tested a new universal flu vaccine.

The School has recently organised or contributed to a variety of public and private high-level meetings, presentations and conferences, including a showcase of ideas at the World Economic Forum in Davos; a symposium with Vodafone's leadership; and a series of seminars on the topic of intergenerational justice – the feature topic of this newsletter. These activities are an important part of the School's engagement with audiences outside academia, which helps translate research into effective decision-making, as well as raise the School's profile among international business and policy leaders.

In addition to these outreach efforts, we are delighted to announce that we have recruited a Head of Policy, Natalie Day (previously from the Royal Society Science Policy Centre), who will lead the School's efforts to engage effectively with policy leaders both nationally and internationally. She will take up her post in early May, and play a pivotal role in strengthening the research-policy nexus across the School.

The end of term brings a valuable opportunity to reflect on our work and recognise the progress being made in vital areas of research. We hope you find the summary of activities and achievements over the next few pages interesting.

Best wishes,

Ian Goldin

Ian Goldin, Director



In the News...

UN forest protection plans linked to 'land grabbing'

JAN 2011 | THE ECOLOGIST

REDD-type forest agreements ignore indigenous populations and are seeing a scramble for forest 'carbon credits' by governments and individuals, warns study.

Dr Connie McDermott (Oxford Centre for Tropical Forests), co-author of the study, comments.

Planned Haitian textile park provides hope for jobs

JAN 2011 | WALL STREET JOURNAL

Haitian and U.S. officials plan to announce a \$250 million deal to develop an industrial park that officials expect to double the size of Haiti's key textile sector.

Professor Paul Collier (Oxford Institute for Global Economic Development) gives insights on how to help bring Haiti back from the brink.

Food inflation is only going to get worse in future, warn scientists

JAN 2011 | THE INDEPENDENT

The era of cheap food is over, and prices are likely to rise significantly in coming decades...

Professor Charles Godfray (Biodiversity Institute) talks about food security.

Call to ditch single pension age

JAN 2011 | FINANCIAL TIMES

Britain should move away from a single age for paying state pension benefits and adopt a flexible approach in which retirement age is linked to factors such as healthy life expectancy or lifetime earnings.

Professor Sarah Harper (Oxford Institute of Ageing) reveals the latest research and advice for how best to prepare the nation for old age.

Flu breakthrough promises a vaccine to kill all strains

FEB 2011 | THE GUARDIAN

Scientists at Oxford University have successfully tested a universal flu vaccine that could work against all known strains of the illness, taking a significant step in the fight against a disease that affects billions of people each year.

Dr Sarah Gilbert and **Professor Adrian Hill** (Institute for Vaccine Design) comment on the significance of the vaccine trial.

Scientists make solar cells with cheap metal oxide

FEB 2011 | BBC NEWS

University of Oxford scientists have discovered a way to make solar cells from a metal oxide found in toothpaste.

Dr Henry Snaith (Programme on Solar Energy) explains latest advances in low-cost solar cells.





Intergenerational Justice

What do we owe future generations?

The Oxford Martin School has built a reputation for tackling big questions that cut across traditional boundaries of expertise. This past term's seminar series exemplified one of those tough questions that resonates through almost every major policy issue of our time: What do we owe future generations?

Intergenerational justice as a way of evaluating or contributing to government policies has only emerged into the glare of public debate in the last decade, but it is a topic that is increasingly attracting academic interest from a wide variety of disciplines. Demographers, economists, political scientists, ethicists and climate scientists were among the speakers who contributed their latest thinking to the lively discussions held each week as part of the seminar series. Convened in collaboration with the Oxford Institute of Ageing, the seminars provided insights into whether theories of intergenerational justice can help establish common ground among vastly different policy issues, and hence contribute to resolving them.

Questions addressed included: How are pensions to be financed in an increasingly ageing population? Who will provide the long-term care for our elderly? How much of our natural resources should we be conserving for future generations?

Who should bear the financial burdens of reducing consumption and implementing energy efficiency measures? Are the costs of changing our lifestyles now worth it for the benefit of those who come after us?

The questions that draw on ideas of intergenerational justice are as wide-ranging as the global policy issues with which they are concerned. A common language emerged from the seminars to analyse these problems: they all have to do with excessive consumption and inadequate saving. Drawing out the implications of this analysis is more difficult. An initial outcome of this term's seminar series will be a workshop in which the first stages of a constructive collaboration among different disciplines can be promoted and developed to address the challenges of making effective policies for the long term.

The seminar series has revealed the considerable interest in intergenerational issues within the University of Oxford, and already a variety of grant applications are underway in this area. The series also helped identify an area of thinking where the Oxford Martin School, with its interdisciplinary networks of scholars, can play a role in developing innovative research programmes that will inform government policy and global cooperation on these issues.

We kept a summary record on the School's blog of all the presentations in the seminar series (<http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/blog/>), and videos are available in the School's multimedia library (<http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/videos>).

For further information about the Intergenerational Justice Seminar Series, please visit: <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/event/942>

Selected publications and achievements

Leadership recognition

Dr David Rodin, Co-Director of Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC), was selected as a Young Global Leader 2011 by the World Economic Forum. Dr Rodin was chosen because of his exceptional professional achievements, proven leadership experience and willingness to serve society at a global level.

Breakthrough vaccine

Dr Sarah Gilbert, James Martin Fellow at the Institute for Vaccine Design at the Oxford Martin School, has led a study of a breakthrough flu vaccine that would protect a patient from all strains of flu. A universal flu vaccine would mean the end of yearly flu jabs, and the annual race to reformulate a vaccine that matches the newest viral strain.



Solar advances

Dr Henry Snaith, Co-Director of the School's Programme on Solar Energy, has discovered a way of creating solar cells that can be printed onto glass or walls. Snaith and his team of researchers combined a metal oxide normally found in toothpaste with a thin dye that when printed on to glass can turn the sun's energy into electricity.

Influencing policy

Oxford Martin School Director, Dr Ian Goldin, brought his latest research and insights to new audiences when asked to address the UK Parliamentary Enquiry on Global Food Security, the UK Treasury on the State of Economics, the European Parliament, and various meetings in Downing Street.

New book published

Academics from the Institute for Emerging Infections and the Institute for Science and Ethics (both Oxford Martin School members) collaborated on the publication of a new book that addresses the issues of rights and liberty within public health. The book, titled *Infectious Disease Ethics*, covers a broad range of topics, including the ethical issues associated with pandemic planning, health workers' rights and vaccination policy. The book came about as a result of a unique symposium hosted by the Oxford Martin School in 2007.

Pension advice

The Oxford Institute of Ageing released a paper that advises drastic changes to the current state pension system, if the system is to remain sustainable and fair for all. The paper, which drew data from more than 1.7 million pension records since the 1970s, sparked an interest in the media on how Britain might deal with an expanding retired population in a time of austerity.

High-level meetings

Dr Ian Goldin led a delegation of five Oxford Martin School academics to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, to share latest academic insights at an 'IdeasLab' on the future of technology and society. The Oxford Martin School also hosted high-level meetings with business leaders from major international corporations such as Vodafone to offer a range of insights on future challenges and opportunities.



Event Highlights – past and forthcoming

Seminars and Lectures

Our seminar series this term was on "Intergenerational justice – what do we owe future generations?" Further details are in the feature story of this newsletter.

The School hosted two special seminars by leading economists who gave their insights and analysis of current economic trends:

- Pranab Bardhan, Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley: "Assessing the economic rise of China and India", 2 February.
- Matthew Bishop, US Business Editor and New York Bureau Chief of The Economist, and Michael Green, leading independent economist and writer: "A new capitalism for a big society", 3 February.

Tim Flannery, Australian Climate Commissioner, gave a public lecture at Oxford's Museum of Natural History on: "Not Without Hope: An Intelligent Future for Life on Earth", 8 March.

James Martin Senior Visiting Fellow, Professor Patricia Hirl Longstaff, gave a seminar on: "Dealing with The New Normal: Resilience in systems that must cope with uncertainty", 31 January.



Oxford Literary Festival

We have developed a unique partnership with the Oxford Literary Festival to bring a series of innovative events about the future to new audiences. Tickets and further information are available at: <http://www.oxfordliteraryfestival.com/>

- A talk by Ian Goldin on his new book, "Exceptional People: How migration shaped our world and will define our future", 2 April 2011.
- A series of panel discussions with Oxford Martin School academics, artists and leading scientists (such as Sir Paul Nurse, President of the Royal Society) on: "Science and the Future: The Future of Life", 3 April 2011.
- A talk by Jill Tarter, Director of SETI, on: "The Search for Evidence of Extraterrestrial Technologies – It could change our world", 5 April 2011.

Intelligence Squared

We have once again partnered with the international debating forum, Intelligence Squared, to produce an event with dynamic presentations from leading academics on innovation and the future. It will be held in London on 2 June. Details forthcoming.

*intelligence*²



Influence In-Depth – focus on the Middle East

With the international news dominated over the past two months by the social uprisings and political unrest across the Middle East, and particularly in Libya, academic perspectives play a vital role in interpreting the complex reasons for and impacts of these conflicts. A number of researchers from the Oxford Martin School offered their insights through comments online and in the media, as they sought to analyse and explain the various dimensions of the political crisis.

Professor Jennifer Welsh, from the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC), wrote a blog to comment on the response by the UN to the situation in Libya. She raised the question of whether Western countries, such as the UK, in their search for more tangible solutions than those offered by the UN Security Council, dare to act outside of a UN-mandate. (The full blog can be found here: <http://bit.ly/hPRfp0>.) Welsh also spoke to the BBC World Service about the mounting crisis in Libya and the Responsibility to Protect. Her colleagues, David Rodin and Dapo Akande, co-Directors of ELAC, were also invited to speak on various BBC radio and television news programmes, and gave insights into the legal implications of events unfolding in Libya and the international response to violence.

Meanwhile, James Martin Fellow Dr Hein de Haas (International Migration Institute) added his voice to the debates through a comment piece on his blog that focused on highlighting the risks faced by sub-Saharan Africans in the country. De Haas argued that African migrant workers are victims of persistent racism and ruthless exploitation, and are Libya's most vulnerable immigrant population who receive no support from their home country governments. (His full comment can be found here: <http://bit.ly/eLVDFI>.)

Emanuela Paoletti, another James Martin Fellow from the International Migration Institute, spoke to a Reuters journalist about Italy's relationship with Libya and commented that, "The contrast between the moral imperative (to support democracy) and the political dividend is particularly stark because of the fear of the consequences the fall of Gaddafi's regime could have on migration." The full article is available at: <http://reut.rs/e0H3Mp>.

A record of press mentions is kept on our website at: <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/press/>
Our blog provides an ongoing resource for comment, opinion and summary of current events: <http://www.oxfordmartin.ox.ac.uk/blog/>.



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