

# THE JAMES MARTIN 21ST CENTURY SCHOOL UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## Michaelmas Term Newsletter

Issue 1, December 2007

Director's introduction	1
The School	2
News highlights	3
Events highlights	4
Research highlights	6
Other news	7

The James Martin 21st Century School

Old Indian Institute  
34 Broad Street  
Oxford OX1 3BD  
United Kingdom

web: [www.21school.ox.ac.uk](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk)  
email: [info@21school.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@21school.ox.ac.uk)

Telephone +44 (0)1865 287430  
Fax +44 (0)1865 287435



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am pleased to introduce the first newsletter from the James Martin 21st Century School. Michaelmas term is drawing to a close and the past few months have seen many exciting events, activities and publications across the School. The newsletter provides a brief overview of some of the activities that our ten research institutes and over fifty James Martin Fellows have been involved with in recent months. It will give you a sense of the potential for far-reaching impact arising from our research agenda, and point you to sources and weblinks where you can find further information.

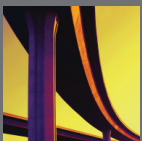


The newsletter will be produced termly to highlight the range of activities across the School. We will also regularly keep you informed of upcoming events via emails and announcements on the website.

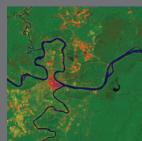
The School is tremendously exciting and dynamic, and although it is still in its early stages, it is already providing insights and making recommendations which contribute to addressing the challenges of the 21st century. Your participation and support will help us increase our capacity and outreach in order to realise our vision of building an international centre of scholarship for integrated thinking and impact-oriented research.

With best wishes for the holiday season,

Ian Goldin  
Director, James Martin 21st Century School



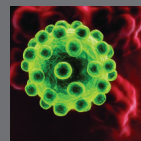
Institute for Science and Civilization



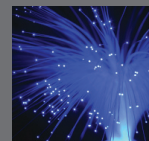
Environmental Change Institute



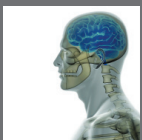
Oxford Institute of Ageing



Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans



e-Horizons



Institute for the Future of the Mind



International Migration Institute



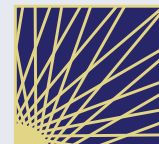
Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences



Future of Humanity Institute



World Education Institute



## The School



Old Indian Institute, Broad Street

The aim of the James Martin 21st Century School is to become the most respected source of interdisciplinary scholarship on the key challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

The School was founded in June 2005 at the University of Oxford as a unique collaborative research effort to develop strategies for responding to unprecedented challenges and opportunities facing the world in the 21st century. The work of the School is interdisciplinary and collaborative, innovative and relevant, and of the highest scholarly standards.

The School is designed along a hub and spokes model, where “the Hub”, led by the School Director, provides strategic guidance, leadership and support for the research Institutes (“the Spokes”), as well as outreach and administration of the School.

The Director, Ian Goldin, arrived in September 2006, and he was joined in Trinity Term 2007 by the Administrator, Laura Lauer, who is in charge of the day-to-day management of the School, and the Outreach Manager, Alison Stibbe, who is responsible for external relations, publicity, events and the website.

You can find out more about the staff and Fellows of the School at:  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/about/people.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/about/people.cfm)

We currently have ten research Institutes and over 50 James Martin Fellows. The Institutes are:

### **The James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization**

[www.martininstitute.ox.ac.uk](http://www.martininstitute.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Professor Steve Rayner

### **The Environmental Change Institute**

[www.eci.ox.ac.uk](http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Professor Diana Liverman

### **The Oxford Institute of Ageing**

[www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/jms.html](http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/jms.html)

Director: Professor Sarah Harper

### **The Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans**

[www.emdis.ox.ac.uk](http://www.emdis.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Professor Angela McLean

### **The Institute for the Future of the Mind**

[www.futuremind.ox.ac.uk](http://www.futuremind.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Professor Baroness Susan Greenfield

### **International Migration Institute**

[www.imi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.imi.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Professor Stephen Castles

### **The e-Horizons Institute**

[www.e-horizons.ox.ac.uk](http://www.e-horizons.ox.ac.uk)

Directors: Professors William Dutton and Paul Jeffreys

### **The Oxford Future of Humanity Institute**

[www.fhi.ox.ac.uk](http://www.fhi.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Dr Nick Bostrom

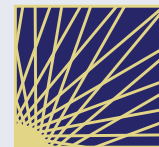
### **The Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences**

[www.bep.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bep.ox.ac.uk)

Director: Professor Julian Savulescu

### **The World Education Institute**

Director: Dr Angus Hawkins



## News Highlights

### Advisory Council

In September 2007, the first meeting of the School's Advisory Council was held in Oxford. Among those attending were **Francis Finlay**, Chairman & CEO, Clay Finlay, Inc., and Chair of the School's Foundation; **John Gage**, Chief Researcher and Vice President of the Science Office, Sun Microsystems; **Ian Goldin**, Director, James Martin 21st Century School (ex-officio); **John Hood**, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford (Chair of the Advisory Council); **James Martin**, Founder, James Martin 21st Century School; **Julia Marton-Lefèvre**, Director-General, IUCN; **Martin Rees**, Lord, Professor, Cambridge University, and President of the Royal Society; **Mark Shuttleworth**, IT Developer and former Astronaut; **Nicholas Stern**, Lord, Professor, London School of Economics; **Crispin Tickell**, Sir, Director, Policy Foresight Programme.

The Council reviewed the activities of the School in its first two years and discussed how to increase impact and enhance the momentum of research. It provided valuable guidance on the comparative advantages of the School, and the themes on which the School can most usefully focus. The enthusiasm and commitment of Council members was evident in the wide-ranging discussion.

There are twenty members of the Advisory Council, who come from business, government, academia and international organisations. The Council meets annually to advise on strategy, increase impact and strengthen academic direction and collaboration. [www.21school.ox.ac.uk/about/advisory\\_council.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/about/advisory_council.cfm)

### Institutes' Reviews

During the summer, the Institutes underwent an independent review of their work and achievements to date. A panel of experts, chaired by Frances Cairncross, Rector of Exeter College, evaluated each Institute under four criteria: 1) academic excellence, 2) impact (in academic, policy and beyond), 3) "additionality" (i.e. how they contribute to the School's goals and what being in the School has allowed them to do), and 4) sustainability (leverage of the School's contribution).

The Executive Summaries of the reports, produced by the Institutes for the Review Panel, are available in our Resources section of the website:

[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/reviews.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/reviews.cfm)

### Funding Round for 2008-11

This term saw a new opportunity for individuals and groups from the University to apply for funds from the James Martin 21st Century School. There has been a tremendous response with 60 applications received from 35 departments across all four academic divisions of the University. Applications are being assessed by a committee chaired by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, and comprising the four Division Heads and the Director of the School. Applicants will be notified of the outcomes at the end of January.

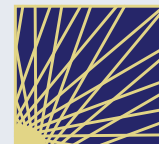
### IMI MacArthur Foundation grant

In June, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded \$900,000 to the School's International Migration Institute to carry out research into alternative conceptions of human mobility based on empirical research in Africa.

The award will fund a three-year research project entitled "African Perspectives on Human Mobility". A series of studies, designed and conducted in partnership with African researchers, will aim to generate new data, methodologies and conceptual frameworks. The new research programme will build upon and be integrated within the IMI's broader African Migrations Programme.

### New 21School website

In mid-September the School website was relaunched with a new look and new links. It has a navigable Research section, which categorises and summarises all the various projects, publications and events across the different Institutes. The Resources section now has webcasts, photographs, publications, presentations and links for further information.



Website traffic has nearly tripled in the past six months, with the number of absolute unique visitors steadily increasing from 1200 last May to over 3000 in November. Visits come from all over the world: people from over 100 countries have viewed our website, although the vast majority still come from Europe. Our goal is to have several thousand hits per day, and to increase our visits from all parts of the world, especially Asia and Africa, so the James Martin 21st Century School becomes a truly international point of reference for innovative and interdisciplinary 21st century scholarship.

The website is regularly updated with more content, references and news items. Suggestions for how to keep the site navigable and pertinent to users are warmly welcomed. If you have questions or suggestions for the website please email: [info@21school.ox.ac.uk](mailto:info@21school.ox.ac.uk)

### Launch of new ethics blog

The Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences and Future of Humanity Institute have launched a new blog, called "Practical Ethics" which provides an ethical analysis of science in the news. The blog can be found at: [www.ethicsinthenews.typepad.com](http://www.ethicsinthenews.typepad.com)

## Event Highlights

### New School premises and Chancellor's visit

In October, we moved into our new premises in the Old Indian Institute building in central Oxford. We have three seminar rooms with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment and video-conferencing facilities. We also have a shared office for School Fellows.

On Tuesday 13 November, the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Lord Patten of Barnes, officially opened the



Lord Patten, Ian Goldin

James Martin 21st Century School's new premises. The Chancellor met with Directors and Fellows from each of our Institutes and engaged in substantive discussions about our research.

Over 70 people attended the opening, which provided an opportunity for University staff and students to view the new facilities and meet the Chancellor and James Martin Fellows.

Photographs are available on our photo archive: [www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/photos.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/photos.cfm)

### Distinguished Public Lectures

The School holds Distinguished Public Lectures, which bring to Oxford leading world thinkers on issues concerning the major challenges of our time. The Lectures help fulfil a key aim of the School – to nurture interdisciplinary research on the most pressing issues; address key 21st century challenges; and communicate with broad audiences to ensure the results of our research are in the public realm and have practical realities.

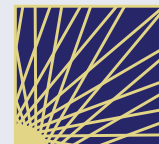
The first Distinguished Public Lecture was given in February by Professor Lord Stern on climate change and policy. The Lecture was introduced by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Dr John Hood, and attracted over 450 people.

Webcast of the Lecture  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/video/200702\\_stern.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/video/200702_stern.cfm)

In October, J Craig Venter gave the second Distinguished Public Lecture in the Sheldonian Theatre. The Lecture was chaired by Lord May, Professor of Zoology at Oxford University, President of the Royal Society (2000-2005), and Chief Scientific Adviser to the UK Government (1996-2000). Nearly 600 people attended Dr Venter's lecture on genomics and its implications for the future of our culture, society and science.

Webcast of the Lecture  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/video/200710\\_Venter.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/video/200710_Venter.cfm)

Photos from the Lecture  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/photos.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/photos.cfm)



## Public Lectures

In November, Professor Paul Collier, Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at the University of Oxford, delivered a Public Lecture based on his book, *The Bottom Billion - why the poorest countries are failing and what can be done about it*.



John Hood, Ian Goldin, Paul Collier

Paul Collier pointed out that while global poverty is actually falling quite rapidly for about eighty percent of the world, the real crisis lies in a group of

about 50 failing states, “the bottom billion”, whose problems defy traditional approaches to alleviating poverty. These 50 failed states pose a central challenge of the developing world in the 21st century.

The lecture highlighted the pitfalls of the current priorities and prescriptions of development practitioners. Collier’s work provides analyses and proposals which aim to help the international development community to address the unique challenges that the bottom billion are now facing.

The Lecture was chaired by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, Dr John Hood.

Webcast of the Lecture

[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/video/200711\\_collier.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/video/200711_collier.cfm)

Photos from the Lecture

[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/photos.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/photos.cfm)

## Seminar Series

We held the first James Martin 21st Century School Seminar Series this term. Directors from eight Institutes in the School offered presentations which reviewed and analysed their research priorities and key findings.

The seminars were very well attended. They provided an opportunity for University researchers

and students to listen to and engage with top researchers at the cutting edge of their field presenting on some of the most challenging issues of our time. They also illustrated the breadth and depth of research activities among the School’s Institutes, and provided examples of collaboration and cross-fertilisation of ideas across the School.

Next term’s series will be focused on the cross-cutting theme of “Risk in the 21st Century”. It will feature presentations from academics within the School and outside experts. Seminars are held on Thursdays, 3.30-5pm, in the Old Indian Institute.

A full programme and further details will be available shortly, and posted to our mailing list and on our website:

[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/news\\_and\\_events/events/](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/news_and_events/events/)

## Private sector outreach

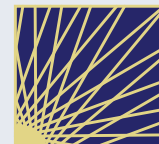
Three dinners have been held over the past few months to raise awareness of the School’s work among private sector and foundation leaders. Ian Goldin was accompanied to each dinner by two Institute Directors, who outlined the School’s current research activities and programmes.

The first dinner was held in London, hosted by Stephen Green, Group Chief Executive of HSBC Holdings, plc. Frances Cairncross, Rector of Exeter College, hosted a dinner in Oxford, and Francis Finlay, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Clay Finlay, Inc., hosted a dinner in New York.

The dinners are part of a longer term strategy to build the School’s profile across different sectors, increase connections internationally, and raise funds to deepen and widen the School’s ability to meet its goal of addressing the world’s most pressing challenges.

## Policy impact and outreach

In June, Ian Goldin, Julian Savulescu (Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences) and Angela McLean (Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans) gave a presentation to civil servants across various government departments for the Prime Minister’s Strategy Unit (PMSU).



The PMSU aims to identify and analyse major policy issues and design strategic solutions for dissemination to the Prime Minister, government departments and external stakeholders.

Their presentation, entitled “Future shocks and challenges”, can be found in the PMSU seminars archive at:  
[www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/seminars.aspx](http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/seminars.aspx)

### Presentations by the School Director

Ian Goldin has been invited to give presentations and hold meetings with a variety of audiences to build a broader international presence for the School and its research agenda. These diverse occasions include: the Advanced Leadership Development Programme for Chinese leaders, the Economic Society of South Africa Conference, the Microsoft CEO Summit, Land Transit New Zealand Conference, IBM Global Innovation Outlook, and the NATO Advanced Research Workshop.

Further engagement and outreach activities with the public and private sectors in Britain and abroad are planned for the new year.

### Events organised by Institutes

The School’s Institutes have been extremely active this term, convening a wide variety of events in Oxford and abroad, with close colleagues and international partners. A few examples include:

- A workshop in July organised by the Environmental Change Institute and the Programme on Ethics of the New Biosciences, entitled, “Commodifying Carbon: The Ethics of Markets in Nature”
- A collaborative open discussion morning, initiated by the Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans, to discuss modelling Dengue transmission and control
- An African Migrations Workshop in Accra, Ghana, convened by the Centre for Migration Studies (CMS), University of Ghana and the International Migration Institute
- A workshop co-organised by the e-Horizons Institute and the European University Institute (EUI) on “Solutions in e-Government” in Florence, Italy

- A seminar series convened by the Oxford Institute of Ageing (OIA) on “Economic Analysis of Morbidity”

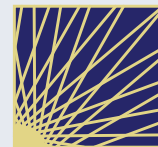
For further information about the events held across the School, please visit our webpages:  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/news\\_and\\_events/events](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/news_and_events/events)

## Research Highlights

### Academic research reports and publications

The Directors and Fellows in the Institutes of the James Martin 21st Century School have published a wide range of articles, commentaries, reports and full-length books. A selection of these includes:

- “In Defense of Posthuman Dignity” – an article by Nick Bostrom (Future of Humanity Institute) chosen for inclusion in an anthology of the best papers published in the journal *Bioethics* in the last two decades.
- “Abandon the Quest! Uncertainty in climate sensitivity – the long-term warming response to doubling carbon dioxide may not be a problem after all, unless the politicians choose to turn it into one” – An article for *Science* magazine by David Frame, JM Research Fellow at the Environmental Change Institute (*Science*, Vol 318. p582-583).
- “Globalization for Development” – the revised edition of a book by Ian Goldin, Director of the James Martin 21<sup>st</sup> Century School (Palgrave Macmillan 2007).
- “A Multifaceted Approach to Neuroscience Outreach: Meeting the Challenges” – an article by Susan Greenfield with two of her researchers (Institute for the Future of the Mind) in *Neuroscientist* (*Neuroscientist* 2007; 13; 447).
- “Irregular Migration from West Africa to the Maghreb and the European Union” – A report by Hein de Haas, JM Research Fellow at the International Migration Institute.
- “Theoretical Ecology: Principles and Applications” a book co-authored by Angela McLean (Institute for Emergent Infections of Humans) with Robert May (Oxford University Press 2007).



- "Time to ditch Kyoto" – an article in the journal *Nature* co-authored by Steve Rayner, Director of the James Martin Institute for Science and Civilization, which calls for a radical rethink of climate policy (*Nature*, Vol 449. p973-975).
- "Home Truths: A low carbon strategy for reducing UK housing emissions by 80%" – a report by the Environmental Change Institute with a blueprint for delivering major carbon cuts from UK homes.  
[www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/energy/hometruths.php](http://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/research/energy/hometruths.php)
- A series of Working Papers published by the Oxford Institute of Ageing (OIA), designed to meet a need for informal publication for members and visitor fellows of the Institute.  
[www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/workingpapers.html](http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/workingpapers.html)

Details of other publications can be found in the website Resources:  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/publications.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/publications.cfm)

Please also view our Research pages to find out more about projects and outcomes of research across the School:  
[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/research/](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/research/)

## Other news

The Oxford Institute of Ageing would like to announce its first Spring School – "The Multi-Disciplinary Toolkit for Global Ageing Research" – to be held in Oxford from 14-18 April, 2008. The Spring School will be a four-day course on aspects of ageing research for practising researchers, academics and graduate students working in the public and private sectors. For more information, please visit the Institute's website: [www.ageing.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk) or send an email to: [angelika.kaiser@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:angelika.kaiser@ageing.ox.ac.uk) [anja.lenninger@ageing.ox.ac.uk](mailto:anja.lenninger@ageing.ox.ac.uk)

### Upcoming Public Lectures:

- Norman Myers (environmentalist and expert on biodiversity), 13 February 2008
- David Sandalow (author of *Freedom from Oil*), 26 February 2008 (tbc)
- Nassim Taleb (author of *Black Swan*), 5 March 2008

## Join our mailing list

Keep up to date with events and news across the School by  
subscribing to our mailing list online at:

[www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/maillinglists.cfm](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk/resources/maillinglists.cfm)

[www.21school.ox.ac.uk](http://www.21school.ox.ac.uk)