

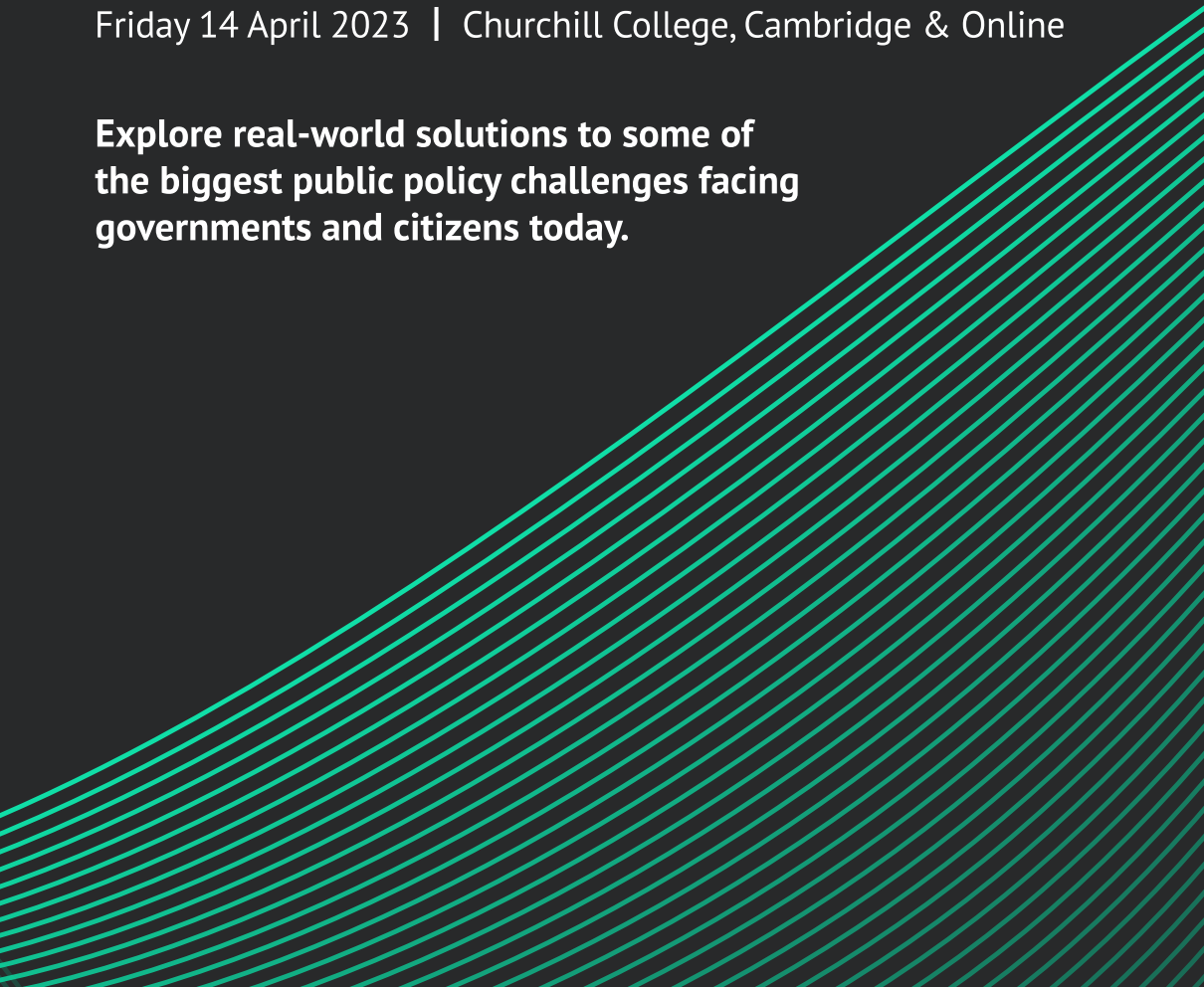


Bennett Institute for Public Policy

# Annual Conference

Friday 14 April 2023 | Churchill College, Cambridge & Online

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



# WELCOME

## Welcome to the Bennett Institute for Public Policy Annual Conference 2023 – in Cambridge and online.

This is an important opportunity for us to share our work and explore other perspectives and expert insights.

Our sessions centre around the Institute's four key interdisciplinary research themes – Place, Progress, Productivity and Decision-Making in Government. We will address some of the challenging policy questions of our time and hear experts share practical solutions for creating a more resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.

We are grateful to everyone for joining us today and for taking part in the day's discussions.

We are especially pleased to welcome the Director of the Leverhulme Trust, Prof Anna Vignoles FBA CBE, to speak about how we need research and innovation breakthroughs, and the people, education and skills behind them, to achieve the many vital goals that the UK has, from improving productivity to tackling climate change.

We hope that today's conversations will interest and inspire you in your work to make tangible improvements in peoples' lives.

**Diane Coyle**, Bennett Professor of Public Policy

**Michael Kenny**, Professor of Public Policy

Directors of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy, Cambridge

# PROGRAMME

TIME	SESSION
09:00–9:45	Registration and refreshments
09:45–10:00	Welcome from Michael Kenny, Bennett Institute for Public Policy Joined by Peter Bennett, Peter Bennett Foundation
10:00–11:15	<b>THE RETURN OF THE STATE IN ECONOMIC POLICY?</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> Diane Coyle, Bennett Institute for Public Policy <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Richard Davies, Bristol University Vicky Pryce, Centre for Economics and Business Research Helen Thompson, University of Cambridge
11:15–11:45	Refreshments and networking
11:45–13:00	<b>MEASURING PROGRESS IN A TIME OF CRISES: HOW CAN DATA HELP POLICY?</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> Matthew Agarwala, Bennett Institute for Public Policy <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Sir Ian Diamond, UK Statistics Authority Sarah O'Connor, Financial Times Jo Swinson, Partners for a New Economy
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:15	<b>WHAT ROLE CAN CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS PLAY IN PERIODS OF ECONOMIC CRISIS AND SOCIAL RECESSION?</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> Michael Kenny, Bennett Institute for Public Policy <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Tony Butler, Derby Museums Rebecca Madgin, University of Glasgow James Purnell, University of the Arts London
15:15–15:45	Refreshments and networking
15:45–17:00	<b>HOW BIG A PROBLEM IS GOVERNMENT SHORT-TERMISM?</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> Dennis C Grube, Bennett Institute for Public Policy <b>SPEAKERS:</b> Catherine Haddon, Institute for Government Halima Khan, Independent Adviser on Public Service Innovation Philip Rycroft, Distinguished Honorary Researcher at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy
17:00–17:15	Short break
17:15–18:15	<b>KEYNOTE SPEECH</b>  <b>CHAIR:</b> Bhaskar Vira, University of Cambridge <b>SPEAKER:</b> Anna Vignoles, Leverhulme Trust
18:15–18:30	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>  Diane Coyle, Bennett Institute for Public Policy
18:30–19:30	Drinks reception

# PRODUCTIVITY

**There has been a long-term slowdown in productivity growth, and greater inequality in the distribution of its benefits in terms of income and access to opportunity. How can government embrace productivity as a cornerstone of the policy agenda to help economic recovery, resilience and prosperity for all? What policies are most critical, what should be continued, strengthened or perhaps even stopped?**

## CHAIR:



### **Prof Diane Coyle**

**Bennett Professor of Public Policy and Co-Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy**

Diane Coyle is the Bennett Professor of Public Policy at the University of Cambridge. She co-directs the Bennett Institute 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 2018, was awarded a CBE for her contribution to the public understanding of economics.

**@DianeCoyle1859 @BennettInst**

## SPEAKERS:



### **Prof Richard Davies**

**Director of the Economics Observatory and Professor of Economics, Bristol University**

Richard Davies is an economist and author. He is currently director of the UK's Economics Observatory, a Professor at Bristol University, a research fellow at the Centre for Economic Performance within the London School of Economics, and a co-director of the Bristol Festival of Economics. He has been Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers at HM Treasury, an economist and speechwriter at the Bank of England, and economics editor of The Economist. Richard is interested in using large scale micro data to answer questions about aggregate puzzles, including inflation, productivity, and wages. He studied economics at Oxford, the London School of Economics and holds a PhD from New York University's Stern School of Business.

**@RD\_Economist**

# The return of the state in economic policy?

To address these issues, the Bennett Institute's Productivity research programme looks at the value of data, policy for the digital economy, and the digitisation of government, society and the economy. In addition, as part of its work with the Productivity Institute, researchers focus on knowledge capital and sector-level productivity dynamics.



## Prof Vicky Pryce

**Economist & Business Consultant**

Professor Vicky Pryce is an economist and business consultant and currently Chief Economic Adviser at the Centre for Economics and Business Research. She has held previous roles as Senior Managing Director at FTI Consulting; Director General for Economics at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS); and Joint Head of the UK Government Economic Service. Vicky has also worked as a Partner and Chief Economist at KPMG and earlier held chief economist positions in banking and the oil sector. Vicky co-founded GoodCorporation, a company advising on business ethics. She is patron of 'Pro-bono Economics', a Visiting Professor at BCU and King's College, London, a member of the advisory board of the Better Statistics Committee and a Fellow on the Council of the Academy for Social Sciences.

**@realVickyPryce**



## Prof Helen Thompson

**Professor of Political Economy,  
University of Cambridge**

Helen Thompson is Professor of Political Economy in the Department of Politics and International Studies at Cambridge University. Her present work centres on the geopolitics, political economy, and domestic politics of energy. Her most recent book *Disorder: Hard Times in the 21st Century* was published by Oxford University Press in February 2022 and was shortlisted for the 2022 Financial Times Business Book of the Year.

**@HelenHet20 @Dept\_of\_POLIS**

# PROGRESS

Public policy is intended to lead to better outcomes, but what does 'better' mean? One important dimension is economic growth, but progress is a broader concept. How can policies also deliver other dimensions – from public health to fair access to goods and services? What measures are needed to reflect today's economy and society, from tracking the digital economy and the impact of other new technologies, to understanding the distribution of opportunities?

## CHAIR:



### **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 developing wealth-based approaches to 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.

**@MatthewAgarwala @bennettinst**

## SPEAKERS:



### **Prof Sir Ian Diamond**

**National Statistician and Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority**

Professor Sir Ian Diamond, FBA, FRSE, FAcSS is the UK's National Statistician, Chief Executive of the UK Statistics Authority, Head of the Government Statistical Service (GSS) and Head of the Analysis Function (AF). Sir Ian is the former Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Aberdeen. His previous roles include Chief Executive of the Economic and Social Research Council, Chair of the Research Councils UK Executive Group, Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Southampton and Chairman of the Social Security Advisory Committee.

**@ONS**

# Measuring progress in a time of crises: how can data help policy?

The Bennett Institute's research programme on 'progress' includes the Wealth Economy project which focusses on achieving sustainability, and the Wellbeing, Productivity and Work research project that explores channels linking wellbeing and productivity and the variations across different working scenarios to offer practical, research-backed solutions.



**Sarah O'Connor**

Journalist and Associate Editor, Financial Times

Sarah O'Connor is a columnist, reporter and associate editor at the Financial Times. She writes a weekly column focused on the world of work, as well as longer reported articles. She joined the FT in 2007 and has covered the US economy from Washington DC, the UK economy from London and the financial crisis from Iceland.

**@sarahoconnor @FinancialTimes**



**Jo Swinson**

Director, Partners for a New Economy

Jo Swinson is the Director of Partners for a New Economy - a philanthropic grant-making fund seeking to catalyse transformational change in our economy to value and benefit nature and all people. She is also a Visiting Professor at Cranfield University. Jo is the former leader of the Liberal Democrats in the UK. From 2012-2015, she served as Business Minister in the UK, and in 2009, she co-founded a cross-party group of MPs to work collaboratively on new economic thinking and well-being economics. In 2018, Jo was awarded the CBE for political and public service. She is also the author of *Equal Power: Gender Equality and How to Achieve It* (Atlantic Books, 2018).

**@joswinson @CranfieldUni**

# PLACE

A focus upon place is integral to effective public policy: where people live and work determines how policies affect them and what kinds of opportunity are available to them. Does a place-based approach to policy mean that more funding and attention should be directed to poorer cities, towns and rural areas?

## CHAIR:



### Prof Michael Kenny

Professor of Public Policy and Inaugural Director of the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

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 forthcoming book, *Fractured Union: Politics, Sovereignty, and the Fight to Save the UK* is published by Hurst in 2023.

@michaelkenny\_ @bennettinst

## SPEAKERS:



### Tony Butler

Executive Director, Derby Museums

Tony Butler has worked in museums for over 20-years and has been Executive Director of Derby Museums since January 2014. Prior to that, he was director of the Museum of East Anglian Life for nine years. In 2011 he founded the Happy Museum Project, to create an international community of practice to explore how museums could contribute to a society in which wellbeing and environmental sustainability were its principle values. As a member of the English Civic Museums Network (ECMN) steering group, Tony is interested in the civic role of museums as the face the financial, social and environmental challenges of the 2020s.

@tonybutler1 @derbymuseums

# What role can cultural institutions play in periods of economic crisis and social recession?

The Bennett Institute explores what a place-based approach to public policy would achieve, and which social outcomes it might help us to address. Current work focuses on the challenges of levelling up, the value of cultural institutions, the importance of social infrastructure and the future of the UK Constitution.



**Prof Rebecca Madgin**

Professor of Urban Studies,  
University of Glasgow

Rebecca Madgin is Professor of Urban Studies at the University of Glasgow and Programme Director for the Arts and Humanities Research Council's Place-Based Research Programme. Rebecca works broadly on the relationship between heritage and place-making and particularly on the emotional value of historic places. She has published widely on heritage-led redevelopment initiatives in the 20th and 21st centuries and works extensively with the heritage and built environment sectors including advisory roles at both the national and local levels in the UK.

@imagination03 @UofGUrbStudies  
@ahrpress



**James Purnell**

President & Vice-Chancellor of UAL  
(University of the Arts London)

James Purnell is President and Vice-Chancellor of UAL (University of Arts London). He has extensive experience within the creative industries, public policy and the digital landscape. James worked previously at the BBC, was a research fellow on IPPR's media project, and was a strategy consultant in media and telecommunications at Hydra Associates. Earlier in his career, he was Special Adviser on the Knowledge Economy, including the arts, internet and broadcasting policy, to the Prime Minister, Tony Blair. He was elected Member of Parliament for Stalybridge and Hyde, before becoming Secretary of State for Culture and then for Work and Pensions.

@jimpurnell @ual

# DECISION-MAKING IN GOVERNMENT

It takes time for good politics and good policy to operate together to arrive at good outcomes. But politics is often operating at breakneck speed, reacting to events in real time, with imperfect information, low tolerance for risk and sometimes outdated processes.

## CHAIR:



### Prof Dennis C. Grube

Professor of Politics and Public Policy, and Research Lead in Political Decision-making at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

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.

@bennettinst

## SPEAKERS:



### Halima Khan

Independent Adviser on Public Service Innovation

Halima Khan is an independent adviser on public service innovation and an affiliated researcher at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy. Her interests are in approaches to public service innovation which incorporate the insights of citizens and frontline staff, and which build social capital and wellbeing. Halima was Executive Director for Communities and Skills at the Greater London Authority where she was responsible for adult skills, social policy, civil society, children and young people, and public health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Prior to this, Halima worked at Nesta where she led work on health and wellbeing and people powered results. She previously worked at the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit in the Cabinet Office, and in local government at Camden Council in London.

@halima\_khan1

# How big a problem is government short-termism?

The Bennett Institute's political decision-making research programme examines current practices across decision-making structures in government, institutional memory as an aid to better decision-making, and the expertise and politics of evidence-based policymaking, to explore how our systems of government might work differently.



## Philip Rycroft

Distinguished Honorary Researcher at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy

Philip Rycroft is a distinguished honorary researcher at the Bennett Institute for Public Policy, affiliated to Edinburgh University, and works as a non-executive director, academic and consultant. Philip worked in the Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) between March 2017 and March 2019 (Permanent Secretary from October 2017). He was responsible for leading the department in all of its work on the Government's preparations for Brexit. From June 2015 to March 2019 he was head of the UK Governance Group in the Cabinet Office, with responsibility for advising ministers on all aspects of the constitution and devolution. From May 2012 to May 2015, he was Director General in the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg.

@Kirkbytop



## Dr Catherine Haddon

Senior Fellow, Institute for Government

Dr Catherine Haddon is a senior fellow at the Institute for Government. Catherine leads the Institute's work on changes of government, ministers and the workings of the constitution, and heads the Institute's professional development programme of ministers and opposition parties. She is an expert commentator on the role of ministers, the constitution, No.10 and the Cabinet Office, preparation for government by political parties and the constitutional rules around general elections, and the history of government and civil service reform. Before joining the Institute for Government, Catherine was a lecturer on security and intelligence history, worked as a historian and researcher, and for various publications and media outlets.

@cath\_haddon @instituteforgov

# KEYNOTE

## Ideas need people: building the talent pipeline for R&D

A thriving Research and Development (R&D) sector is vital to the many goals that the UK has, from improving productivity to tackling climate change. Our wider education system, from the early years onwards, is central to our ability to undertake world class R&D. If a workforce lacks skills, a country will struggle to get the productivity gains it needs to grow and innovate and bring changes to increase productivity. So how do we frame policy to achieve a thriving economy?

### CHAIR:



#### **Bhaskar Vira**

**Professor of Political Economy, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Cambridge**

Bhaskar Vira is Professor of Political Economy, a Fellow of Fitzwilliam College, an Honorary Fellow of St John's College, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education at the University of Cambridge. He has served as Head of the Department of Geography, and was Founding Director of the University of Cambridge Conservation Research Institute. At Fitzwilliam College, he held the role of Graduate Tutor, and is currently Director of Studies in Geography. Bhaskar's research interests include: environmental and development economics; political economy, particularly the study of institutions and institutional change; public policy in the developing world, especially India; state-society interactions in development.

**@bhask286 @Cambridge\_Uni**

### SPEAKER:



#### **Anna Vignoles**

**Director of the Leverhulme Trust**

Anna Vignoles FBA CBA is Director of the Leverhulme Trust: one of the largest, all-subject providers of research funding in the UK. She was previously a Professor of Education at the University of Cambridge and a Fellow of Jesus College. Anna's research has focused on issues of equity and value in education, particularly the relationship between educational achievement and social mobility, and the role played by education and skills attainment in the economy and society. She has acted as a Trustee of the Nuffield Foundation, Member of Council of the Economic and Social Research Council, and Member of the Advisory Board of the Sutton Trust. She was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2017 and awarded a CBE in 2019 for her services to social sciences.

**@AnnaVignoles @LeverhulmeTrust**

# IMPACT

The Bennett Institute is committed to interdisciplinary policy research into the major challenges facing the world, and to high-quality teaching and dissemination of the knowledge and skills required in public policy.

## WITH THANKS TO:



### 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), the Science Museum (2023) and the Science Policy Research Unit at the University of Sussex (2023). Peter continues to explore new partnerships in different academic fields.

## When music meets science - Hebrides Redacted

Driven by the observation that human activities are silencing nature, Dr Matthew Agarwala (Bennett Institute for Public Policy) and Dr Ewan Campbell (Musical Director, Churchill College) fuse the arts and sciences in an adaptation of Mendelssohn's Hebrides Overture, to paint an audible picture of the 70% decline in humpback whale populations from 1829-1930. Dividing the score into decades, Ewan pulls notes from Mendelssohn's score, commensurate with humanity pulling whales from the ocean. As Matthew highlights the policies that could restore ocean ecosystems to their natural glory, their adaptation builds to a triumphant crescendo, a final, resounding call to action. A short film captures the world premiere, performed by the 38-piece Wilderness Orchestra at the 2022 Wilderness Festival in Oxfordshire.

### Watch:



# Notes

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