

CHALLENGES OF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE 2019

THE NEW GENERATIONS

Conference programme

#COGC2019

Politics is experiencing a generational shift. People born after 1980 face starkly different social, environmental and technological prospects than previous generations. In almost every country, generational cleavages on core challenges of government are increasingly salient.

This conference looks at how those under 40 are changing the world, and at the most important issues for millennials and Gen Z – from technology to climate change to generational equality.

Thursday 31 October

8:00 Registration and coffee

9:00 Welcome remarks

A welcome by Dean **Ngairé Woods**, Blavatnik School and **Thomas Hale**, Associate Professor in Global Public Policy, Blavatnik School (faculty lead for the conference).

Location: Lecture theatre 1

9:15 Keynote conversation

Syed Saddiq, Malaysian Minister of Youth and Sports, one of the youngest ministers in Asia.

Rafat Ali Al-Akhali (video message), ex Minister of Youth and Sports in Yemen, Blavatnik School Fellow of Practice and School alumnus.

Kate Forbes, Minister for Public Finance and Digital Economy for the Scottish Government.

Moderated by **Ngairé Woods**, Dean, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

10:00 Inside or outside?

In many countries, generational divisions on the challenges of government are widening, while trust in existing establishments is weakening. Should the young and the dissatisfied seek to change things from within, or to drive change through external activism or other means? Young changemakers discuss their paths inside and outside ‘the establishment’.

Speakers: **Nick Allardice**, Chief Product Officer, Change.org; **Yemi Babington-Ashaye**, founder of WEF Global Shapers and President of United People Global; and **Jeremy Roberts**, Member of the Ontario Provincial Parliament and Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, Canada (and Blavatnik School alumnus). Moderated by **Emily Jones**, Associate Professor in Global Public Policy, Blavatnik School of Government.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

11:00 Coffee

11:30 **From conception to career: Building better futures for young people**

OECD-level countries provide rich opportunities for a minority of cognitively gifted young people, but the majority face pitfalls all along the chain from conception to developing a career – from the damage caused by stress in early parenting to the limited availability of vocational training.

The Blavatnik School's Paul Collier, author of *The Future of Capitalism*, talks to three people who are addressing some of the issues: Sara Fernandez, director of volunteer organisation Oxford Hub, who works on strengthening families with young children; Sandra McNally, expert on vocational education; and Josh Babarinde, founder of a smartphone repair service staffed by ex-offenders and at-risk youth.

Speakers: **Josh Babarinde**, founder and CEO of Cracked It; **Sara Fernandez**, Director of Oxford Hub; **Sandra McNally**, Director of the Centre for Vocational Education Research and Professor of Economics at University of Surrey; and **Paul Collier**, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

12:30 **Lunch**

14:00 **Regulating big tech**

Younger generations are digital natives and companies such as Facebook, Google and Amazon are not just service providers, but platforms for our lives. In return for the benefits they offer, they have accrued near-monopoly status, huge profits and vast amounts of data. How should such platforms be regulated to maximise public benefit and minimise harm?

Speakers: **Aïda Ndiaye**, Blavatnik School alumna and Facebook's Public Policy Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa; **Nikhil Pahwa**, Indian journalist and digital rights activist who campaigned against Facebook Basics; and **Damian Tambini**, Associate Fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR), at the Oxford Internet Institute, and at the Saïd Business School. Moderated by **Pepper Culpepper**, Blavatnik Chair in Government and Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

15:15 **Coffee**

15:45 Parallel sessions

Bringing the benefits of technology to all

While digital technologies appear to be ubiquitous, not everyone is benefiting from their potential to drive economic growth. In fact, three billion people – many of them young – will still be offline in 2023. How can the next generation bridge the divide and bring everyone into a digitally bright future?

Speakers: **Beatriz Kira** from the Pathways for Prosperity Commission, who helped write Uber regulations in Brazil; **Aïda Ndiaye**, Blavatnik School alumna and Facebook's Public Policy Manager for Sub-Saharan Africa; **Siddharth Shetty** from iSPIRT, a think tank for the Indian software industry; and **Lizelle Strydom** from CareerBox, which prepares high-school pupils in South Africa for digital careers. Moderated by **Stefan Dercon**, academic co-director for the Pathways for Prosperity Commission and Professor of Economic Policy, Blavatnik School of Government.

Location: Seminar rooms

A new economics for a new generation

Many young people feel traditional economic models have let them down and are no longer fit for purpose. Inequality is high, and rising. What does the new generation of economists have to say, and what new models look most promising?

Speakers: **Maeve Cohen**, ex-Director of Rethinking Economics; **Mark Paul**, Assistant Professor of Economics at New College of Florida and previously active in the Occupy movement; and **Enrique Zapata** of CAF, the development bank of Latin America, a Blavatnik School alumnus. Moderated by **Eric Beinhocker**, Professor of Practice (Public Policy), Blavatnik School, and Executive Director of the Institute for New Economic Thinking, Oxford Martin School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

17:00 Closing remarks

17:15 Drinks

Friday 1 November

8:00 **Registration and coffee**

8:30 **Brexit breakfast**

A chance to discuss unfolding events with Blavatnik School and other University of Oxford thinkers.

Speakers: **Calum Miller**, Chief Operating Officer and Associate Dean, Blavatnik School; **Kalypso Nicolaidis**, Professor of International Relations, University of Oxford; and **Tom Simpson**, Associate Professor of Philosophy and Public Policy, Blavatnik School. Moderated by **Emily Jones**, Associate Professor in Global Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Inamori Forum

9:30 **Empire and the dangers of young changemakers – Peter Frankopan**

Peter Frankopan is Professor of Global History at Oxford University and author of the bestselling *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*. Here he talks about the role of young leaders throughout history.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

10:00 **Intergenerational inequality: How real is it, and how important?**

Baby boomers have been accused of stealing millennials' economic future. Dr Jennie Bristow, author of *Stop Mugging Grandma*, and Joseph Sternberg, author of *Theft of a Decade*, debate whether claims of generational injustice are fair or helpful.

Speakers: **Jennie Bristow**, Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Canterbury Christ Church University; and **Joseph Sternberg**, columnist for the Wall Street Journal. Moderated by **Peter Kemp**, Vice Dean and Professor of Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

11:00 **Coffee**

11:30 **Parallel sessions**

The future of the planet

Younger generations have inherited a planet in great peril. The school strike movement's founder Greta Thunberg and others say governments and politicians have not done enough. At the same time, cities, businesses and even some countries are setting and achieving targets few thought possible even a year ago. Where do 'outside' and 'inside' strategies work best, and how can they support each other?

Speakers: **Nina Möger Bengtsson**, author and member of the Danish Youth Climate Council; and **Temilola Fayokun**, representative from the UK Students Climate Network. Moderated by **Thomas Hale**, Associate Professor in Global Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

Youth and the city: World café

Over half of the world's population live in urban areas, and the countries with the fastest-growing urban populations are also those with the youngest populations. Cities are dominated by the young and mobile. How does municipal government ensure its own legitimacy in the face of an ever-changing populace?

Speakers: **Jefferson Koijee**, Mayor of Monrovia, the capital of Liberia; **Soledad Nuñez Mendez**, former Minister of Housing in Paraguay and Blavatnik School alumna; and **Marian Schreier**, Mayor of Tengen, Germany (the youngest mayor in the country) and Blavatnik School alumnus. Facilitated by **Oliver Harman**, Cities Economist, Blavatnik School.

Location: Seminar rooms

12:45 **Lunch**

13:45 **Plenary: Chuka Umunna MP**

Chuka Umunna is Member of Parliament for Streatham in the UK, Shadow Foreign Secretary for the Liberal Democrats, and co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on EU Relations. He shares his thoughts on the importance of young people entering politics and government.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

14:15 **Parallel sessions**

**Renewing integrity:
Faming, not shaming**

A world in which people with power are more accountable, where resources are used more wisely, and where integrity is celebrated would help younger generations regain faith in government. In this session Blair Glencorse, director of Accountability Lab, talks to Batool Asadi about her experience in fighting corruption as the first woman to serve as a field Assistant Commissioner in Balochistan, Pakistan.

Speakers: **Batool Asadi**, Assistant Commissioner in Quetta, Pakistan; and **Blair Glencorse**, director of Accountability Lab. Moderated by **Anna Petherick**, Departmental Lecturer in Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

Intergenerational climate policy workshop

This interactive session comprises multiple small-group discussions that aim to tackle specific aspects of the climate crisis. Several senior policy figures will identify a pressing climate-related problem they face, and will brainstorm solutions, supported by technical experts from Oxford University.

Participants: **Janar Akaev**, Member of Parliament in Kyrgyzstan; **HRH Prince Khalid bin Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdulaziz**, Ambassador, Embassy of Saudi Arabia; **John Harris**, Board Member, Manhattan Community Board Five; **Tom Hayes**, Oxford City Council climate lead; **Andres Diaz Silva**, Head of Innovation and Sustainable Development, Colombian Embassy; and **Marc Venhaus**, senior analyst at Volkswagen AG. Moderated by **Thomas Hale**, Associate Professor in Global Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Seminar rooms

15:30 **Coffee**

16:00 Parallel sessions

Cultural change and identity

Identity politics is nothing new – activists have always employed common identities in order to promote political change. But where such movements have historically invoked liberal values with claims of universal relevance, millennial movements have more often built upon narrower identities of gender, sexuality and class. How can we build meaningful political movements across newer identity divides?

Speakers: **Jiayang Fan**, staff writer at *The New Yorker*, reporting on China and US politics; **Snigdha Poonam**, author of *Dreamers: How Young Indians Are Changing Their World*; and **Jane Shaw**, Principal of Harris Manchester College, Professor of the History of Religion, and one of the principal investigators for the iGeneration Project. Moderated by **Maya Tudor**, Associate Professor of Government and Public Policy, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 1

Cities: Kabul - identity, legitimacy and governance

What roles do cities, with their youthful populations, play in developing a sense of identity and legitimacy in fragile contexts? This panel takes Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan and the fifth fastest-growing city in the world, as a case study to examine how urban contexts and actors can support, or undermine, national stability by providing a dense spatial context where new networks of solidarity, resistance and governance emerge.

Speakers: **Shoaib Rahim**, Senior Advisor at Afghanistan's State Ministry for Peace and former acting Mayor of Kabul; and **Freshta Karim**, Blavatnik School alumna and pioneer of mobile libraries for children in Kabul. Moderated by **Shahrukh Wani**, Cities Economist, Blavatnik School.

Location: Lecture theatre 2

17:15 Closing remarks

17:30 Drinks