

Speakers 2018



Kate Andrews is the News Editor at the IEA where she oversees the IEA's digital platforms, creating and commissioning content for the website, social media and ieaTV. Previously she was Head of Communications at the Adam Smith Institute. Kate regularly features across the national media, including appearances on BBC News, Sky News, Channel 4, Channel 5, ITV and the BBC's Question Time. She has written for the Telegraph, Spectator Coffee House, The Times' Red Box, Conservative Home and currently writes a fortnightly column for CityAM on Fridays.

Possible topics include the Gender Pay Gap, Healthcare, and American politics.



Adam Bartha is European Outreach Manager at EPICENTER with responsibility for the private and public events programme in Brussels. Previously, he was a Koch Summer Fellow and interned in the Publications Department of the Independent Institute in California. He also has experience in domestic party politics in Germany and Hungary and gained an insight into the working of the European Parliament through the office of a Hungarian MEP. Adam has a BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations from the University of Sheffield and an MSc in Political Theory from the London School of Economics. Adam is fluent in German and Hungarian.

Possible topics include European integration, Central-and Eastern European political affairs.



Prof. Philip Booth is Senior Academic Fellow at the Institute of Economic Affairs and Professor of Finance, Public Policy and Ethics at St. Mary's University. Philip previously worked for the Bank of England as an advisor on financial stability. He has written on investment, finance, social insurance and pensions, and the relationship between Catholic social teaching and economics. He co-authored Defusing the Debt Timebomb which was published in The Daily Mail and The Telegraph.

Possible topics include Banking and Financial Services, Market Failure, Financial Regulation, Government Debt, the Financial Crisis, Tax and Economic Growth, and Globalisation and Inequality.



Nerissa Chesterfield is the Communications Officer at the IEA. Prior to joining the IEA, Nerissa was the Development Manager at Business for Britain, and then at Vote Leave where her responsibilities were primarily focused on recruiting support for the campaigns by organising events, and taking the lead on focussed regional and sector specific initiatives. She has appeared on various national media platforms including BBC News, Sky News, Channel 5 & BBC Radio 5 Live.

Possible topics include the Gender Pay Gap and the Costs of Living.



Dr. Steve Davies is the IEA's Education Director. He has authored several books, including Empiricism and History and co-edited The Dictionary of Conservative and Libertarian Thought. Steve has participated in the annual IEA THINK Conference to talk on the Economics of Sport, spoken on future innovation on BBC Radio 4, debated on CityAM on improving schools through academisation and appeared on Newsnight to discuss the growing demand for delivery services.

Possible topics include UK Economic Growth, History of Globalisation, Economics of Football, Technology & the Future, Getting Rid of Schools, the Welfare State, and a World of City States.



Madeline Grant is the IEA's Digital Officer, focusing on social media, blog and video output. Prior to joining the Institute, she worked as a Parliamentary researcher and speechwriter, and as a journalist for Newsweek, The Daily Telegraph and other news outlets. Madeline graduated from St Hilda's College, Oxford in 2014, with a degree in English. As an undergraduate, Madeline was actively involved in university politics, and was elected to Standing Committee of the Oxford Union during her studies.

Possible topics include the Gender Pay Gap and the Sharing Economy.



Julian Jessop is Chief Economist at the IEA. He has thirty years of experience as a professional economist in the public and private sectors, including senior positions at HM Treasury, HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank. Prior to joining the IEA in March he was a Director and Chief Global Economist at the leading independent consultancy, Capital Economics. Julian has a First Class degree in economics from Cambridge University and post-graduate qualifications in both economics and law.

Possible topics include Brexit, the Global and UK economies, Public Economics, and Fiscal and Monetary Policy.

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2 Lord North Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3LB

Tel: 020 7799 8900 Fax: 020 7799 2137 Email: iea@iea.org.uk

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Stephanie Lis is Communications at the IEA, leading on the IEA's press-related issues and enquiries, as well as outreach across the political spectrum. She previously worked as Campaign Manager at The Freedom Association where her focus was on civil liberties and the European Union. Stephanie comments on local and national media, and has appeared on Sky News, BBC News, Five Live and LBC discussing topics such as plain packaging of tobacco products and the UK housing crisis.

Possible topics include Costs of Living, Wage Controls, Welfare, and Austerity.



Mark Littlewood is the Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs, previously he was Head of Media for the Liberal Democrats. In 2014, Mark was ranked 38th on The Times' 'Right-wing Power List'. Mark frequently comments on political and economic issues on television and radio including BBC Question Time, Any Questions, Newsnight, Channel 4 News, Sky News and Radio 4's Today Programme. He is a strong advocate of liberal ideals and free market economics, having spoken extensively against tobacco industry regulation and government intervention.

Possible topics include "Drowning in Debt", Lifestyle Economics, Brexit and "Bad Stats and Fake News".



Dr. Natalia Murray is an Associate Lecturer in XIX-XX century Russian Art and Freelance Curator. Natalia curated the exhibition "Revolution: Russian Art 1917-32" at the Royal Academy. Natalia's father was once put in a Labour camp and her great-grandfather was in a gulag camp. He is believed to have escaped and to have been shot in 1937.

Natalia would talk about "The Man who Died for Cezanne", about Nikolay Punin who was arrested three times and put in a Gulag camp when he was a leading figure in the art world in Russia, refusing to exclude leading artists, including those from the West, who were not approved of by the Soviet regime.



Dr. Kristian Niemietz is Head of Health and Welfare at the IEA and author of the books "Redefining the poverty debate" and "A new understanding of poverty". He also publishes on a wide range of related topics, ranging from Welfare Economics to public services. He regularly writes for CityAM on topics related to healthcare. He is a staunch advocate for the privatisation of the NHS.

Possible topics include Healthcare, Poverty, and Housing and Pensions.



Sophie Sandor is Programmes Manager at the IEA. Sophie tours UK schools, organising the IEA's sixth form economics conferences and other educational opportunities for school and university students. Prior to joining the IEA Sophie was a Research Associate at the Adam Smith Institute and, on the lead up to Scotland's independence referendum, worked for the unionist campaign Better Together.

Possible topics include Careers in Economics and Education.

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Prof. Len Shackleton is an Editorial and Research Fellow at the IEA and Professor of Economics at the University of Buckingham. His research interests are mainly around employment and labour market issues. Len has appeared on television and radio and written for newspapers and websites on topics as varied as high pay, the gender pay gap, misleading statistics, inequality, immigration, higher education, childcare, football regulation and the shortage of public toilets in London.



Chris Snowdon is the Director of Lifestyle Economics. He is the author of The Art of Suppression, The Spirit Level Delusion and Velvet Glove; Iron Fist. His work focuses on pleasure, prohibition and dodgy statistics. He has authored a number of publications including Sock Puppets, Euro Puppets, The Proof of the Pudding, The Crack Cocaine of Gambling and Free Market Solutions in Health. Chris also published the study "Closing Time: Who's Killing the British Pub?" which appeared in The Daily Telegraph, The Daily Mail and CityAM.

Possible topics include Inequality, Sin Taxes, Paternalism and Happiness studies.



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Giles Udy is a historian and author of Labour and the Gulag. Labour and the Gulag uncovers a dark chapter in British Labour history as it tells the story of the party's seduction by the allure of a socialist utopia and the moral compromises that followed. On the centenary of the Russian Revolution, and as the hard left's influence in the party grows again, it offers stark lessons for the future.

Giles can talk about the subject of the book and can also be asked about the labour camp at Norilsk, which he has visited, and his plan to write another book about the people who were brought to the camp.



Dr. Richard Wellings is Deputy Research Director and Head of Transport. With a PhD on public choice theory, Richard is the author or editor of several papers, books and reports, including A Beginner's Guide to Liberty and Globalisation and Free Trade. He is a frequent commentator on economic issues on television and radio and has written for several newspapers including the Daily Telegraph, the Times and City AM.

Possible topics include Brexit, the Decline of the West, Economic Development, Infrastructure and HS2, and the Role of Government.



Dr. Jamie Whyte is Research Director at the IEA, and former leader of the libertarian ACT Party of New Zealand. He was previously a management consultant and philosophy lecturer. He is the author of Quack Policy, Free Thoughts, A Load of Blair and Crimes Against Logic. In 2006 he won the Bastiat Prize for journalism and was runner up in 2010 and 2016.

Possible topics include Social Welfare, Inequality, Poverty, State Education, the Financial Crisis, Labour Regulation, Sin Taxes, Drug Legislation, Human Rights and Freedom of Speech.



Diego Zuluaga is Head of Financial Services and Tech Policy at the IEA. He holds degrees in economics and finance from McGill University and Keble College. His main policy interests are consumer finance and banking, capital markets regulation, and multi-sided markets. He has written on a range of economic issues including the taxation of capital income, the regulation of online platforms and the reform of electricity markets after Brexit. Diego's articles have featured in Newsweek, City AM, CapX and L'Opinion. He is a frequent speaker on broadcast media and at public events, and a lecturer at the University of Buckingham.

Possible topics include Technology and Economic Development, "Are monopolies more or less prevalent than in 1900?", "The EU: An Economic Analysis", "Why you should become an economist and What does technology mean for the future of work?"

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