



iea

Institute of
Economic Affairs

SPEAKERS

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Adam Bartha

Adam is the Director of EPICENTER, a network of nine leading free-market think tanks from across Europe. He is responsible for the co-ordination and co-operation of the network and for organising the private and public events programme in Brussels. Adam gives regular talks on topics ranging from the rule of law, authoritarian populism, free market reforms, and the political affairs of the CEE region. Adam was previously European Outreach Manager at EPICENTER and a Koch Summer Fellow in the Publications Department of the Independent Institute in California. He also has experience in domestic party politics in Germany and Hungary. 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 English, German and Hungarian.

Possible topics include **EU integration, Populism, Rule of Law, Central-and Eastern European Political and Economic Affairs.**



Professor Philip Booth

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, Globalisation and Inequality and International Development.**



Ralph Buckle

Ralph is Head of Outreach at the IEA. Ralph previously worked at the IEA as the Events and Public Affairs Manager. His other experience includes working as the Head of Events at Policy Exchange, and as a Communications and Projects Consultant for Dods Parliamentary Services. He has also worked in Parliament, for political groups, and for public affairs agencies as well as being Director and Co-Founder of Commonwealth Exchange (CX). Ralph has a BA in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) from the University of York.

Possible topics include **The Sharing Economy, Immigration, Careers, and The IEA and UK Think Tank History.**



Dr. Steve Davies

Dr Steve Davies is the Head of Education at the IEA. Previously he was program officer at the Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) at George Mason University in Virginia. He joined IHS from the UK where he was Senior Lecturer in the Department of History and Economic History at Manchester Metropolitan University.

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.**



Alexander Hammond

Alexander C. R. Hammond is the Policy Advisor to the Director General. Before joining the IEA, Alexander worked as Research Associate in the Cato Institute's Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity, in Washington D.C. Alexander often writes about economic freedom, African development, British politics, and global wellbeing. His works have been translated into multiple languages and have been featured in Reason, National Interest, Washington Examiner, Newsweek, CapX, FEE, the Cato Institute website, the HumanProgress.org blog, and various other outlets both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Alexander was educated at the University of Exeter, where he studied History and Politics.

Possible topics include **Human progress/the state of global wellbeing, the Value of economic freedom, and African trade.**



Victoria Hewson

Victoria joined the IEA's International Trade and Competition Unit in Spring 2018 and now heads up the IEA Regulatory Affairs Unit. She is a lawyer and practised for 12 years in the fields of technology and financial services, before joining the Legatum Institute Special Trade Commission to focus on trade and regulatory policy. She has published work on the implications and opportunities of Brexit in financial services and movement of goods and the issues in connection with the Irish border. Before entering the legal profession Victoria worked for Procter & Gamble in the UK and Germany.

Possible topics include **Trade, Brexit and Rule of Law, Deregulation.**



Julian Jessop

Julian Jessop is an Economics Fellow at the IEA. He has over 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 2017 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.**



Prof. Syed Kamall

Professor Syed Kamall is Academic and Research Director at the IEA and Professor of International Relations and Politics at St Mary's University, Twickenham. He formerly worked in IT and as a strategy, public affairs and diversity consultant. From May 2005 to June 2019, he was a Conservative MEP for London. In the European Parliament, he was leader of the European Conservatives and Reformists political group of MEPs from 19 countries, and worked to promote open trade, tech start-ups and better financial regulation. As the most senior elected British MEP, he acted as an interlocutor between UK and EU negotiators. In London, he regularly met and worked with local community projects tackling poverty and social exclusion. He is currently setting up a microfinance project to offer online loans to entrepreneurs from poorer communities. He is also in discussions to set up a local charities network to help inspire and incubate more local community charities.

Possible topics include **Poverty, Entrepreneurship, the European Union, post-Communist economies, Privatisation and liberalisation, Foreign investment.**



Mark Littlewood

Mark Littlewood is the Director General of the Institute of Economic Affairs. He is one of the most well-known free market voices in the United Kingdom and is a much sought-after speaker at a range of events including university debates, industry conferences and public policy events. In 2019, he was ranked 41st on Iain Dale's 'Top 100 Conservative Influencers List.' He frequently comments on political and economic issues on television and radio and writes a regular column for The Times. He also sits on the board of Big Brother Watch – an organisation which argues for protection of privacy and civil liberties in the UK.

Possible topics include [Lifestyle Economics](#), [The Case for Classical Liberalism](#), [Brexit](#), [Why the 2020's Will Be the Best Decade Ever](#), [Free Market Environmentalism](#), ["Bad Stats and Fake News"](#), ["Taxation and How the Rich Pay Their Fair Share"](#).



Rebecca Lowe

Rebecca Lowe was previously Director of FREER, an initiative focused on economic and social liberalism, which is housed at the IEA. She is also a columnist and part of Conservative Home's editorial team, and has written for numerous other publications. She has worked for various political research organisations, as a parliamentary researcher, a political consultant, and in the arts, education and charity sectors. Until late 2017, she was State and Society Fellow and Convenor of the Research Group on Political Thought at Policy Exchange.

Possible topics include [the Value of freedom](#), [Fiscal decentralisation](#), [the Size of the state](#), [Income distribution](#), [Equality](#), [Democracy](#), [the Future of work](#) and [Free speech](#).



Andy Mayer

Andy Mayer is Chief Operating Officer at the IEA. Andy worked as Head of Public Affairs, UK & Ireland at BASF plc for seven years. He has over 20 years of experience in strategic communications and the operations that support them in the business and think tank worlds.

Possible topics include [Climate change](#), [Energy and environment](#), [Business & Manufacturing](#), [Politics of Brexit](#), [Battle of Ideas](#) (free speech and the regulation of think tanks).



Dr Kristian Niemietz

Dr Kristian Niemietz joined the IEA in 2008 as Poverty Research Fellow, becoming its Senior Research Fellow in 2013, Head of Health and Welfare in 2015 and Head of Political Economy in 2018. Kristian is also a Fellow of the Age Endeavour Fellowship. He studied Economics at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and the Universidad de Salamanca, graduating in 2007 as Diplom-Volkswirt (MSc in Economics). During his studies, he interned at the Central Bank of Bolivia (2004), the National Statistics Office of Paraguay (2005), and at the IEA (2006). In 2013, he completed a PhD in Political Economy at King's College London. Kristian previously worked as a Research Fellow at the Berlin-based Institute for Free Enterprise (IUF), and at King's College London, where he taught Economics throughout his postgraduate studies. He is a regular contributor to various journals in the UK, Germany and Switzerland.

Possible topics include [Socialism/Communism](#), [Healthcare](#), [Housing](#), [Federalism/Decentralisation](#).



Emma Revell

Emma is Head of Communications at the IEA. She previously worked as Senior Communications Officer at the Centre for Policy Studies. Prior to working in Westminster she worked in social care, providing community-based support for adults with mental health and substance abuse issues and learning disabilities. Emma has appeared on BBC News, Sky News, and talkRADIO, and has written for The Spectator, The Daily Telegraph, and City A.M.

Possible topics include [Nationalisation](#), [Devolution](#), [the Regeneration of the North](#), [Mental health provisions](#), [Housing and homelessness](#), [Gender issues](#), and [Social freedoms](#).



Prof. Len Shackleton

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 regularly appeared on television and radio and written for newspapers and websites on topics as varied as high pay, the gender pay gap, misleading statistics and the shortage of public toilets in London!

Possible topics include [Inequality](#), [Immigration](#), [Higher education](#), [Childcare](#), [Football regulation](#), [Jobs](#) and [Artificial intelligence](#).



Christopher Snowden

Christopher Snowden is the Head of Lifestyle Economics at the IEA. 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. His IEA publications include **Sock Puppets**, **Euro Puppets**, **The Proof of the Pudding**, **The Crack Cocaine of Gambling** and **Free Market Solutions in Health**.

Possible topics include [Inequality](#), [Sin Taxes](#), [Paternalism](#) and [Happiness studies](#).



Giles Udy

Giles Udy is an historian and author of **Labour and the Gulag**, which 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.

Possible topics include [the Russian Revolution](#), [Labour Camps](#) and [Communism](#).



Dr. Richard Wellings

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](#).