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# SPEAKERS

# 2023

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## Adam Bartha

As Head of International Outreach, Adam oversees the IEA's collaboration with our global partners to spread our publications in over 100 languages in every corner of the world.

Adam also serves as the Director of EPICENTER, the leading free market network of think tanks in Europe. He was previously European Outreach Manager at EPICENTER and a Koch Summer Fellow in the Publications Department of the Independent Institute in California. 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



## Dr Juan Castaneda

Juan Castaneda is the Director of The Vinson Centre. A Doctor of Economics since 2003 (UAM University at Madrid) and lecturer in Economics at the University of Buckingham since 2012, Juan has experience working and researching in Monetary Policy and central banking. He has worked with the European Parliament's Committee of Economic and Monetary Affairs and submitted written evidence for a UK Parliament report on the Euro. He is also a member of the IEA's Shadow Monetary Policy Committee.

**Possible topics include:** Monetary Policy, Central Banks, How independent are central banks, Inflation, Money, the Euro, and 'On Monetary sovereignty: an assessment of Modern Monetary Theory'



## Sam Collins

Sam Collins is a Policy Advisor to Mark Littlewood, IEA Director General. Sam has spent most of his working life in the political and charitable sectors in New Zealand, Britain, and the United States of America. Sam previously held roles as the Director of The Hope Foundation for Street Children (UK), Director of The Age Endeavour Fellowship, and Public Affairs Consultant at MAP BioPharma.

**Possible topics include:** Homeownership, Constitutional Issues, Intergenerational Issues, and Tax Reform





## Dr Steve Davies

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. He has authored several books, including *Empiricism and History* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003) and was co-editor with Nigel Ashford of *The Dictionary of Conservative and Libertarian Thought* (Routledge, 1991).

**Possible topics include:** History of Globalisation, Global Catastrophic Risks, Realignment of Politics, Economics of Football, Technology & the Future, the Welfare State, and a World of City States



## Annabel Denham

Annabel Denham is Deputy Comment Editor of the Telegraph, previously having served as Director of Communications at the IEA. She previously worked at The Entrepreneurs Network, an offshoot of the Adam Smith Institute, where she was Associate Director and ran the APPG for Entrepreneurship. Prior to that, Annabel worked as a Researcher for former-MP Lord (Peter) Lilley and as Deputy Business Features Editor at City AM.

**Possible topics include:** Entrepreneurship, Gender Issues including the Gender Pay Gap, Lifestyle Issues, and the Labour Market



## James Forder

James Forder is Academic and Research Director at the IEA. He has taught economics and sometimes politics at Oxford University since 1993 and is Andrew Graham Fellow and Tutor in Political Economy at Balliol College. His principal research interests have been in central bank independence, and the history of macroeconomic ideas, including especially those following from the work of A W H Phillips; and the work of Milton Friedman. He has also written on the merits of the first past the post electoral system. He believes that public policy could be enormously improved by greater recognition of the power and utility of price mechanisms, as compared to regulatory controls such as prohibitions, licensing rules, and obligations on public bodies to pursue specific quantitative outcomes.

**Possible topics include:** 20th Century Economics, Monetary Economics and Central Banking, Thatcherism, and the Price Mechanism



## Daniel Freeman

Daniel Freeman is Research Assistant to James Forder, Academic and Research Director at the IEA. Before joining the IEA he worked as a private tutor teaching A-Level economics, among other subjects, in the UK and abroad. Daniel has conducted interviews with various experts for the IEA's YouTube channel, has been published in Responsible Statecraft and has appeared on BBC Radio 4 to discuss the effects of sanctions on Russia's economy.

**Possible topics include:** Sanctions, the Great Divergence, the history of anti-discrimination legislation, central bank digital currencies, why the Soviet communism failed, Russia's transition to capitalism and dictatorship.



## Alexander C.R. Hammond

Alexander Hammond is the Director of the Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity, a Free Trade Fellow at the IEA, an EPICENTER Fellow and a Senior Fellow at African Liberty. Before joining the IEA, Alexander worked as a Researcher at the Cato Institute in Washington D.C. Alexander often writes about African Trade, development, and economics, as well as global economic freedom and human progress. His works have been translated into multiple languages and have been featured in The Washington Times, Reason Magazine, The Washington Examiner, National Interest, City AM, Newsweek, and various other outlets both in the UK and overseas.

**Possible topics include:** International Development, Global Wellbeing, Foreign Aid, the Importance of Economic Freedom, and African Economics.



## Reem Ibrahim

Reem is the Communications Officer at the Institute of Economic Affairs, and is the IEA's Linda Whetstone Scholar. She is completing her undergraduate degree at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Reem regularly appears on television and radio, including the BBC, LBC, GB News, TalkTV, and more, and has been published in The Telegraph. Reem has a particular interest in education policy, and has worked in education prior to the IEA.

**Possible topics include:** Education Reform/ School Choice, Tobacco Harm Reduction, Free Speech, Gender Issues, Lifestyle Issues, Young People and Socialism, Socialism Vs Capitalism, Socialism on Social Media.



## Julian Jessop

Julian Jessop is an Economics Fellow at the IEA. He has over 30 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 Economies, and Fiscal and Monetary Policy



## Matthew Lesh

Matthew Lesh is Director of Communications at the Institute of Economic Affairs, having previously been Head of Public Policy. Matthew regularly appears across broadcast and print. He was previously Head of Research at the Adam Smith Institute and has worked for Australian politics, digital communications, and founded a mobile application development start-up. Matthew graduated with First Class Honours from the University of Melbourne with a Bachelor of Arts (Degree with Honours) and completed a Masters in Public Policy and Administration at the London School of Economics where he received the Peter Self Prize for Best Overall Result.

**Possible topics include:** Why Everything is Awesome, digital regulation, free speech, the minimum wage and in-work benefits, market environmentalism, housing reform



## Mark Littlewood

Mark Littlewood is Director General of the IEA and the Ralph Harris Fellow. He is one of the most well-known free market voices in the UK and is a most sought-after speaker at a range of events including university debates, industry conferences and public policy events. He frequently comments on political and economic issues on television and radio, and writes a regular column for The Times. Mark also sits on the board of Big Brother Watch, a non-profit organisation fighting for the protection of privacy and civil liberties in the UK.

**Possible topics include:** The Case for Classical Liberalism, The Case for Capitalism, Brexit, Free Market Environmentalism, 'Bad Stats and Fake News', Taxation, Lifestyle Economics, Public Service Broadcasting, Football Economics, The Right to Privacy and Civil Liberties in the UK, Healthcare Outcomes and Reform, the NHS





## Rebecca Lowe

Rebecca was previously Director of FREER, an initiative focused on economic and social liberalism, housed at the IEA. She has worked for various political research organisations, as a parliamentary researcher, a political consultant, and in the arts, education, and charity sectors.

**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 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:** Environmental Issues, Business & Manufacturing, Politics of Brexit, and Free Speech



## Dr Kristian Niemietz

Kristian Niemietz is the IEA's Head of Political Economy. He studied Economics at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin and the Universidad de Salamanca, graduating in 2007 as Diplom-Volkswirt (≈MSc in Economics). In 2013, he completed a PhD in Political Economy at King's College London. Kristian previously worked at the Berlin-based Institute for Free Enterprise (IUF), and taught Economics at King's College London. He is the author of the books *A New Understanding of Poverty* (2011), *Redefining the Poverty Debate* (2012), *Universal Healthcare Without the NHS* (2016) and *Socialism: The Failed Idea That Never Dies* (2019).

**Possible topics include:** Socialism and Communism, Healthcare, Housing, Immigration, and Federalism and Decentralisation



## Damian Pudner

Damian Pudner is Director of the Institute of International Monetary Research. He has enjoyed a successful career spanning 25 years in the City of London, holding several senior roles at leading investment banks and financial institutions. His research interests are primarily on unconventional monetary policy and the relationship to output and inflation, especially the work of Milton Friedman and Karl Brunner. Damian holds an MSc in Money, Banking, and Central Banking from the University of Buckingham, and a first-class honours degree in Business Management and Economics from The Open University.

**Possible topics include:** Monetary Policy and Financial Stability, Monetarism, The Quantity Theory of Money, Central Banks as Lender of Last Resort, Banking Crises, Quantitative Easing, Inflation during Covid-19, Money Creation in Modern Economies.



## Professor Len Shackleton

Len Shackleton is an Editorial and Research Fellow at the IEA and Professor of Economics at the University of Buckingham. He was previously Dean of the Royal Docks Business School at the University of East London, and prior to that was Dean of the Westminster Business School. He has also taught at Queen Mary, University of London and worked as an economist in the Civil Service. His research interests are primarily in the economics of labour markets. He edits the journal *Economic Affairs*, which is co-published by the IEA and the University of Buckingham.

**Possible topics include:** Inequality, Immigration, Higher Education, Childcare, the Economics of Football, Labour Markets, and Artificial Intelligence



## Christopher Snowden

Christopher Snowden is the Head of Lifestyle Economics at the IEA. He is the author of *Killjoys*, *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 dozens of IEA publications including *Sock Puppets*, *Lockdown Lessons in Health Economics*, *A Safer Bet*, and *The Proof of the Pudding*.

**Possible topics include:** Inequality, Sin Taxes, Paternalism, and Happiness Studies