

POLY CRISES CONFERENCE ABSTRACTS, TITLES AND BIOS

Prof Bobby Banerjee

“Settler colonial (dis)order: The case of Palestine”

Abstract: Contemporary discourses about international law, humanity and political sovereignty construct Palestine as a state of exception. Progressive and liberal attitudes toward racial justice, human rights, gender equality, LGBTQI rights, freedom of speech, right to protest, and other issues seem to disappear when these principles are applied to Palestine. In this talk I will discuss this phenomenon of ‘except for Palestine’. This state of exception is a direct outcome of settler colonialism that enables the Israeli state to position itself above international laws and to ‘manage’ the (dis) order it creates through an infrastructure of colonial laws. Scholars of Palestine have discussed the racialized and settler-colonial basis of the state of exception and highlighted the institutional and policy regimes that enable the continuing oppression of the Palestinian people. These regimes normalize violence – both everyday violence and the disproportionate violence inflicted on civilian populations - through an elaborate system involving checkpoints, permits, dispossession, land appropriation, demolitions, arbitrary detentions, torture, surveillance and racial profiling. Drawing on this scholarship, I discuss the implications of normalization of the exception for growing authoritarianism and the criminalization of dissent across the Western world and the ethical and political contradictions of being ‘progressive except Palestine’.

Bio: Bobby Banerjee is Professor of Sustainability at Bayes Business School (formerly Cass). He was the Associate Dean of Research & Enterprise from 2018-2022 and was also Director of the Executive PhD program from 2013 to 2019. His primary research interests are in the areas of corporate social irresponsibility, (un)sustainability, climate change and decolonial resistance movements. Other research interests include critical management studies, Indigenous ecology, and postcolonial studies. He has published extensively in leading scholarly journals and am the author of two books: Corporate Social Responsibility: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly and the co-edited volume Organizations, Markets and Imperial Formations: Towards an Anthropology of Globalization. He serve on the editorial board of seven international journals and was a Senior Editor at Organization Studies from 2007 to 2019. He is an Associate Editor at Business & Society. He is also a cofounder of ETHOS: The Centre for Responsible Enterprise at Bayes Business School.

Dr Gemma Birkett

“Disciplinary Power in the Techno-Carceral Web”

Abstract: On a global scale we are witnessing the permeation of digital technologies into all aspects of social life, including the criminal justice system. Forms of disciplinary and surveillance power in the UK, once conceptualised as the ‘electronic panopticon’ are now manifested through a multitude of state-controlled databases, online court procedures, the use of Artificial Intelligence in sentencing processes, GPS controlled electronic monitoring, facial recognition and fingerprint technology, sobriety tags for punishing offenders in the community, and emergent frontiers in virtual prisons. While some countries (such as China and Canada) are leading the way in digital penalty, many penal states are still adjusting to the demands of the information society. Yet adjust they must. The manifestation of state digital strategies (in part reacting to global economic conditions and the demands of the post-Covid-19 world) demonstrates how many governments are now seeking to harness technology in the administration and delivery of justice services, from the court to the community and penal institutions. These developments have a multitude of implications for users of penal systems worldwide and herald an unprecedented expansion of the techno-carceral web.

Dr Can Cinar

“Labor in Limbo: The Dynamics of Bargaining Power Among Refugees and Migrants”

Abstract: This study delves into the labor market experiences of Syrian refugees in Turkey, focusing on the constraints and opportunities that shape their bargaining power. Amidst Turkey's evolving policy landscape regarding refugees, Syrian individuals face significant legal and societal hurdles that impact their employment rights and wage negotiation capabilities. The research highlights the critical role of host country regimes in either facilitating or hindering refugees' access to formal employment and fair labor practices.

Bio: Can Cinar, PhD, is a lecturer at City, University of London, with a background in political economy, holding academic qualifications from the University of Otago and Newcastle University. His research focuses on debt dynamics, the exercise of political authority by international agencies, and the socioeconomic impacts of economic policies on marginalized groups, notably Syrian refugees in Turkey.

Susan Coughtrie

Bio: Susan has been Director of the Foreign Policy Centre (FPC), an international affairs think tank, since January 2023. Susan joined FPC in July 2020 to lead the Unsafe for Scrutiny project, which explores the risks and threats facing journalists uncovering financial crime and corruption. The findings of this research led Susan to co-found the UK Anti-SLAPP Coalition in January 2021, which she continues to co-chair. Susan has undertaken a variety of consultancy work in the media sphere, having previously worked at the international free expression organisation ARTICLE 19 from 2012-2018, as an advisor to the European Centre for Press and Media Freedom (ECPMF) from 2019-2022, and served as a Reader Director for the Scottish investigative media outlet The Ferret from 2020-22. Susan is currently a Trustee for the Campaign for Freedom of Information in Scotland (CFoIS) and a member of the advisory board for Crossroads Central Asia, a think tank based in Kyrgyzstan.

Dr Georgios Giannakopoulos

Bio: Georgios is a historian of Modern Europe. He holds a PhD in Modern History from Queen Mary University of London. He lectures in Modern History at City University of London and is the associate editor of the *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*. He is visiting research fellow at King's College London and research associate at LSE Ideas. Georgios has published widely on the history of international thought, liberal internationalism, and southeastern European history and politics. He is the author of *The Interpreters: Internationalism and Empire in southeastern Europe 1870-1930* (Manchester University Press, forthcoming). He is currently editing two journal special issues on the global history of liberal internationalism and co-editing two books on the global history of Greece and Turkey in the early 1920s.

Dr Charlotte Godziewski

“Exploring the EU's expanding health security role since COVID-19”

Bio: Dr Charlotte Godziewski is a Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in International Politics. Her research explores the politics of health, specifically the politics of framing health issues and defining what constitutes health promotion. She has explored these puzzles with an empirical focus on EU institutions, analysing 'health promotion' as a site of tension between the social and economic logics

of EU integration. Charlotte is a coordinator of the UACES-funded research network on EU Health Governance.

Maya Goodfellow

“Race, class and the economy: how is the term ‘economic migrant’ used in British political discourse?”

Abstract: Over the past 30 years, the label “economic migrant” has become widely used in British political discourse. Yet it has not been subject to sustained scrutiny. Based on an analysis of Hansard data and select British newspapers between 1983 and 2021, this paper establishes three common formulations of the label. Then, drawing on work related to the concept of man, race, class and the economy, it argues that in different ways – in part, depending on different policy contexts – these usages produce distinct class-based forms of racialization that are grounded in ideas of economic otherness.

Bio: Maya Goodfellow is a Presidential Fellow at City University, her work focuses on the intersection between migration, race and capital. She is the author of *Hostile Environment: How Immigrants Became Scapegoats*.

Prof Sophie Harman

Bio: Sophie is Professor of International Politics at Queen Mary University of London where she teaches and conducts research into Global Health Politics, African agency in International Relations, and Visual Politics. She has published seven books and numerous articles on these topics, most recently, *Seeing Politics: film, visual method and international relations*. In 2016 she co-wrote and produced her first narrative feature film *Pili*, which was nominated for a BAFTA for outstanding debut for a British writer, producer, or director in 2019. She was the recipient of the Political Studies Association Joni Lovenduski Prize for outstanding achievement by a mid-career scholar and the Philip Leverhulme Prize in 2018. Her first book for a popular audience on the centrality of women’s health to international politics, *Sick of It*, will be published by Virago/Little Brown in 2024.

Dr Andri Innes

“Mapping the effects of insecure migration status: inequality, exploitation and violence”

Abstract: This research uses a genealogical tracing of the complex systems through which migrant women interact with the state to argue that the hostile environment in the UK utilizes domestic violence as a deterrent measure. I argue that the state’s own processes of accountability and responsibility for domestic violence fatalities, and the active exclusion of migrant women from state-provided services that are key in intervening in cases of domestic violence, are sufficient for domestic violence against migrant women to be constituted as a complex form of state violence.

Bio: Alexandria Innes is a Senior Lecturer in International Relations in the Violence and Society Centre at City, University of London, and is currently co-investigator on the UKRI Prevention Research Partnership-funded consortium *VISION*. Theoretically, her research is situated at the intersection of critical security studies and migration studies in International Relations. She has published in various outlets, including International Political Sociology, Security Dialogue, Geopolitics and International Relations. She is the author of two monographs, *Migration, Citizenship and the Challenge for Security* (Palgrave, 2015), and *Postcolonial Citizenship and Transnational Identity* (Routledge, 2020).

Dr Anna Katila

“Perceptions of incarceration and (dis)order in post-genocide Rwanda”

Bio: Dr Anna Katila joined City as a Presidential Fellow in 2023, having completed her PhD in Comparative Literature and War Studies at King’s College London. Her interdisciplinary research on genocide, transitional justice, peace, gender and decolonisation has recently been published in *Textual Practice* and *International Journal of Transitional Justice*.

Dr Mustafa Kutlay

Bio: Mustafa is a senior lecturer in the Department of International Politics at City, University of London. He works on developing countries (with particular reference to the politics and foreign policy of Turkey), comparative political economy of institutions, democracy, and development in the global South, and global orders. His articles appeared in *International Affairs*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Globalizations*, *Government & Opposition*, *Third World Quarterly* and *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, among others. He is the co-author of *Industrial Policy in Turkey: Rise, Retreat, Return* (Edinburgh University Press, with M. Toksöz and W. Hale).

Dr Mark Ledwidge

“Understanding the Crisis in Reparations”

Abstract: The Crisis regarding the issues of Reparations. This paper will focus on providing a political and conceptual analysis of the issue of reparations regarding the so-called African slave trade. The paper will uncover and examine or explain the following 1.) It will briefly uncover the ideological roots of the struggle waged by African Caribbean and African American people for restitution from their racial oppression based on the causal claim that it is linked to the enslavement of their African ancestors. 2.) It will show that the struggle for reparations arose from the Black Nationalist and Pan-Africanist tradition to win power for the descendants of enslaved Africans. 3.) The contemporary part of the essay will explore the existing tensions between those from below with the political elite of Jamaica and Barbados. This paper will question whether the reparations movement has been co-opted by post-colonial governments despite its emergence from below which is significant regarding who would receive the benefits if reparations were won. Overall, this article will demonstrate how Non-State actors (NSA) can successfully lobby, and empower a political issue but ultimately are vulnerable to being removed from the center of the political struggle in favor of formal state actors whose central position within the national polity provides them with the license to tailor the ideological, terrain to maximize state interests.

Bio: Hon. Senior Research Fellowship School of Arts and Social Sciences, Department of International Politics City University, London (2023); studied at the University of Manchester where he gained a BA (Hons) in Combined Studies an MA in social research and a Ph.D. Mark was previously appointed as Senior Lecturer and Subject Lead in the Department of History and American Studies at CCCU. Dr. Ledwidge obtained five Research Fellowships at the University of Manchester in 2008, the Rothermere American Institute (RAI) at Oxford University in 2012 and within the Department of International Politics, City University, London 2014; and formerly at the University of East Anglia, 2019. and Hon. Senior Research Fellowship, Department of International Politics City University, London (2020). Mark has also worked with community and other organisations including the Jamaican Embassy and the British Foreign Office. Mark is currently engaged in professional consultancy.

Dr Zeno Leonie

“A return to clashing geopolitical blocs?”

Abstract: This talk identifies systemic geopolitical trends that suggest the world order is dividing into geopolitical blocs with associated spheres of influence. Despite the Cold War officially ending three decades ago, a ‘cold peace’ has prevailed, manifesting itself as strategic competition between China and the US and the return to old adversarial dynamics with Russia’s resurgence. Less ideologically driven than the Eastern and Western blocs of the Cold War, there are nonetheless three new tentative blocs emerging: a renewed, albeit diminished, Western bloc; a large but leaderless Eurasian bloc; and a confluence of swing states not bound to any particular hegemon. While these dynamics increase the likelihood of global conflict, and put pressures on swing states, this talk points out that thanks to its political cohesion the West will continue to hold sway. Nonetheless, the West’s ability to retain its leadership role could yet be undermined by an illiberal and anti-democratic America emerging.

Bio: Dr. Zeno Leoni is a Lecturer in Defence Studies in the Defence Studies Department of King’s College London, and an Affiliate to the Lau China Institute of the same university. His current research focuses on US-China relations in a changing world order. His latest book is titled *A New Cold War: US-China Relations in the 21st Century* (Bristol University Press, 2024) and he is currently working at a new book on the return to bloc politics.

Prof Photis Lysandrou

“Disorder and Dollar Dominance”

Abstract: The core of the argument presented here is this: (i) the global production realm is one of fragmentation and a scattering apart of countries as those in the East vie with those in the West, but this is categorically not true of the global currency realm where most of the world's currencies remain locked in the US dollar's gravitational field; (ii) where it is the dollar's backing mass of US financial securities that is the source of its gravitational force, international portfolio flows are the conduits through which that force is transmitted; (iii) far from undermining the dollar's international dominance, global crises and disorder serve to further strengthen that dominance by causing heightened uncertainty and an ensuing investor flight to safety; (iv) the dollar's dominance can only be challenged if another currency is backed by a sufficiently large mass of securities as to make it a centre of gravity in its own right, but this is not something that is going happen soon; (v) others have predicted that the dollar's dominance will persist for the foreseeable future, but the point also is that this persistence be explained in a way that destroys any illusions to the contrary.

Bio: Professor Photis Lysandrou is Research Professor in Global Political Economy at the City University Political Economy Research Centre (CITYPERC), City University of London. He has taught economics and finance at City University Business School, University of Greenwich and at London Metropolitan University where he was lead professor in economics. His current research interests are in the areas of international finance, corporate governance and theories of global inequality. He continues to give public lectures on these subjects, his most recent being those given for the London Banking Academy and for the Brussels based diplomat school, CERIS-ULB. He has published widely in many economics and international political journals including the *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Common Market Studies* and the *International Review of Political Economy*. His most recent book was *Commodity, the Global Commodity System in the 21st Century* published by Routledge.

Dr Aaron McKeil

“Understanding Strategies for Order in an Era of Geostrategic Competition”

Bio: Aaron is Academic Director of the LSE Executive MSc International Strategy and Diplomacy Programme, and Convenor of the International Orders Research Unit at LSE IDEAS.

Abstract: How are strategies for international order being formulated and implemented in a new era of disorder and geostrategic competition? How do these changes in practice differ and compare to past eras of disorder and competition? New practices, histories, and theory suggest that the study of how states and coalitions aim to maintain order in eras of strategic competition and political upheaval is overdue for reconsideration. New geoeconomic security dimensions of statecraft, combined with new forms of strategic interaction in a globalized context are reshaping how international order is conceived and pursued in practice. This era has remarkable changes in practice, but little conceptualization in theory. This paper offers an initial conceptual consideration of the changing forms of practice and strategic culture emerging from this new era of strategic competition, through a combination of initial empirical study and comparative analysis of past eras.

Prof Eugene McLaughlin

Bio: Eugene is Professor of Criminology in the School of Policy and Global Affairs. His current research focuses on understanding the nature and impact of institutional corruption and institutional scandals, 'trial by media' and contemporary cultism. He has also written extensively on the crisis of policing and the history and development of criminology. His most recent book is *Cults* (with Stephanie Baker and Chris Rojek, forthcoming summer 2024).

Dr Alice Mesnard

“Revolving Doors: How Externalization Policies Block Refugees and Divert Other Migrants Across Migration Routes” Co-authors: Filip Savatic (Sciences Po Paris), Jean-Noel Senne (University of Paris-Saclay), Helene Thiollet (Sciences Po Paris)

Bio: Alice is a Development Economist and Reader at City, University of London. Specializing in the economics of migration, health and education, her research has focused on public policy's role in improving human development. Her current research focuses on the impacts of border closure policies on irregular migrants and refugees, on the design of legalization policies to weaken smuggling markets and on the integration of refugees. Dr. Mesnard has led research projects funded by the ESRC, the Hewlett foundation, J-PAL, GCRF, DFID, the European Commission, NORFACE among others, and has published in leading international journals in Public Economics such as the European Economic Review, the Journal of Human Resources, the Journal of Development Economics, the Journal of Public Economics, the Economic Journal.

As a Senior Research Economist at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (London) from 2003 to 2010, she has gained expertise in public policy evaluation and has analysed policies related to migration, education (Conditional Cash Transfer programmes), labour market programmes (New Deal in the UK) and health (health insurance, demand for health care, maternal health, nutrition, mental health and infectious diseases). She has led quasi-experimental, experimental, and empirical research projects involving large data collections in Colombia, France, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra-Leone and Tanzania. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the European Development Research Network (EUDN), a Fellow of the Institut Convergences Migrations (ICM, Paris) and of the Center for Research and Analysis of Migration (CREAM, London) and is a founding member of the South Asia Network for Displacement and Development (SANDD) which was formed at City under the UKRI's GCRF scheme and which aims to increase interdisciplinary collaboration and regional cooperation in conducting research that helps climate change-affected South Asian communities develop resilience strategies. She is the Chair of the Academic Board of the London campus of the University Paris-Dauphine (PSL).

Abstract: In recent decades, migrant destination states have increasingly sought to externalize migration controls while purportedly remaining committed to refugee rights. Given these objectives, do externalization policies have distinct impacts on refugees and other migrants? We argue that refugees may be less able to adjust to policies blocking specific migration routes than other migrants. We thus posit that externalization policies may primarily block refugees while diverting other migrants across routes. To test our hypotheses, we deploy a novel method to estimate whether individuals are likely to obtain asylum in destination states ("likely refugees") or not ("likely irregular migrants"). We deploy a novel method to estimate whether individuals are likely to obtain asylum in destination states ("likely refugees") or not ("likely irregular migrants"). We apply our method to data on "irregular/illegal border crossings" (IBCs) using data on asylum granted by nationality across 31 European destination states. We show that likely refugees tend to be concentrated on single migratory routes while likely irregular migrants may be dispersed across multiple routes. We then conduct an event study analysis of the impact of the 2016 EU-Turkey Statement on IBCs. We find that the policy diverted likely irregular migrants while blocking likely refugees. Our findings highlight that migration policies have differential effects and that the EU-Turkey Statement failed to prevent unauthorized entries of likely irregular migrants, with questionable effects on refugee protection.

Dr Bamo Nouri

Bio: Bamo is an award-winning Senior Lecturer in International Relations at the University of West London, and an Honorary Research Fellow at City, University of London and a One Young World Ambassador. He is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, an independent investigative journalist and writer with interests in American foreign policy, sustainability and the international and domestic politics of the Middle East. His latest book is *Elite Theory and the 2003 Iraq Occupation by the United States – how US Corporate Elites Created Iraq's Political System* (Routledge, 2021). He is currently working on a new book on how the liberal international order undermines the UN's Sustainable Development Goals agenda.

Dr Madura Rasaratnam

"The politics of global ordering and ethnic conflict: the Sri Lankan case in comparative perspective"

Abstract: What do the shifting global politics of Sri Lanka's decades long ethnic conflict tell us about the relationship between local disorder and violence and global ordering projects? The long history of Sri Lanka's conflict is closely interwoven with the shifting projects of non-alignment, the cold-war, neo-liberalism, the post-cold war era and the rise of non-western powers, principally China but also India. What do the current entanglements of the local and the global in Sri Lanka tell us about the changing character of international order.

Bio: Madura Rasaratnam is a Senior Lecturer in Comparative Politics. Her work examines the domestic and international dynamics of ethnic conflict, with a regional focus on Sri Lanka.

Dr Orkun Saka

"Public Trust in the Aftermath of Epidemics"

Abstract: It is sometimes said that an effect of the COVID-19 pandemic will be heightened appreciation of the scientific expertise as well as increased trust in political institutions. We test this hypothesis by examining how exposure to previous epidemics affected trust in scientists and political institutions. Building on the "impressionable years hypothesis" that attitudes are durably formed during the ages 18 to 25, we focus on individuals exposed to epidemics in their country of residence at this particular stage of the life course.

Combining data from a 2018 Wellcome Trust survey of more than 75,000 individuals in 138 countries with data on global epidemics since 1970, we show that such exposure has no impact on views of science as an endeavor but that it significantly reduces trust in scientists and in the benefits of their work. We also illustrate that the decline in trust is driven by the individuals with little previous training in science subjects, pointing to the role of lack of education in creating misperceptions of scientists during health crises. Our evidence further suggests that epidemic-induced distrust in scientists translates into lower compliance with health-related policies in the form of negative views towards vaccines and lower rates of child vaccination.

By using a separate dataset of nearly a million individuals from Gallup World Polls, we go on to detect persistently negative effects of epidemic experience when young on confidence in political institutions and leaders. This loss of trust is associated with epidemic-induced economic difficulties, such as lower income and unemployment later in life. It is observed for political institutions and leaders only and does not carry over to other institutions and individuals, such as courts, police or military. A key exception is a strong negative effect on confidence in public health systems. This suggests that the distrust in political institutions and leaders is associated with the (in)effectiveness of a government's healthcare-related response to epidemics. We show that the loss of political trust is largest for individuals who experienced epidemics under weak governments with low policymaking capacity, and confirm that weak governments in fact took longer to introduce policy interventions in response to COVID-19. We also find evidence that the epidemic-induced loss of political trust discourages electoral participation in the long term.

Bio: Orkun Saka is a Senior Lecturer in Economics at the City, University of London, a Visiting Senior Fellow at London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), a Research Associate at the Systemic Risk Centre and STICERD as well as a Research Affiliate at the CESifo Network. He has previously visited several research institutions including the UC Berkeley and the University of Cambridge. His research and teaching revolve around financial intermediation, international finance and political economy; and his academic papers have been published in some of the world-leading journals in economics and finance, such as *The Economic Journal* and *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*.

Dr Liza Schuster

“Migration Policy-making in and about Afghanistan”

Abstract: In 2019, the Afghan government launched a comprehensive national migration policy. In spite of the significance of migration in Afghan cultural, economic, political and social life – the impulse for this policy came, not from the Afghan government or civil society, but from Europe, specifically from European Union Member States such as Germany, who received many of the 250,000 Afghans who applied for asylum in Europe in 2015, which saw a crisis of European asylum policy. Perhaps inevitably the goals of Afghan migration policy were being set by European governments responding to domestic pressures and operating within particular ‘policy frames’. This paper explores the role played by the European Union and its Member States in shaping the migration policy of the Afghan government, in particular since 2014, and the return to power of the Taliban in 2021. Though it ends with the evacuation of Afghan allies in 2021, some comparisons are drawn with the response to refugees from Ukraine, which highlight the colonial and racist treatment of non-European refugees.

Bio: Dr Liza Schuster has spent most of the past decade conducting fieldwork in Afghanistan, where she was based at the Afghanistan Centre at Kabul University. Funded by the Leverhulme Trust (2012 - 2013), she has studied the consequences of deportation for Afghans, their families and

communities. Her most recent work, funded by the ESRC (2016-2018), and in collaboration with Afghan colleagues at ACKU, included an examination of representations of migration in Afghan Oral Culture, a study of the Hopes, Plans and Fears of Afghan Families, and an exploration of the influence of the EU on the development of Afghan Migration Policy. She prepares expert reports on Afghanistan for Immigration tribunals in the UK, and across Europe and contributes to debates on migration in a number of countries.

Dr Farwa Sial

“The Crisis of accumulation, Epistemicide and the Global Financial Architecture”

Abstract: This talk will explore the concept of crisis, the recent neologism of the term ‘Polycrisis’ and its widespread appeal to a western audience. My aim is to explore the integration between the coinage of the term and its export to mainstream media and policy, focusing on how the term impacts the existent understanding of crisis and knowledge in general. Key idea here is that neologisms do not exist without some form of epistemicide. To demonstrate this, I will focus on the current operations of Global Financial Architecture and development finance in general.

Bio: Farwa Sial is a Research Associate with the Department of Economics at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). Her research expertise includes political economy of development, development finance and the global financial architecture and the changing nature of private sector accumulation in context to imperialism. Her research interests lie in integrating academic research into activism and policy making on a national and multilateral level. She is a management committee member of [Association of Heterodox Economics](#) and [Diversifying and Decolonizing Economics](#).

Dr Agne Suziedelyte

“Have Girls Been Left Behind During the COVID-19 Pandemic? Gender Differences in Pandemic Effects on Children’s Mental Wellbeing”

Abstract: The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted many aspects of people’s lives, including mental wellbeing, and these impacts were not uniform. In this paper we explore whether the COVID-19 pandemic had gendered impact on children's mental wellbeing. We find that behavioural and social difficulties increased more among girls than among boys during the COVID-19 pandemic relative to the pre-pandemic years. The results on life satisfaction are consistent. These gender differences are more pronounced in lower-income families. Our results are consistent with previous findings of larger pandemic effects on mental health of women.

Bio: Dr Suziedelyte is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Economics at City, University of London. She works on a range of topics in the economics of health and human capital. She is particularly interested in the effects of ICT and media on health and human capital development. Her other research interests include intended and unintended consequences of public policies, wellbeing effects of economic shocks and natural disasters, mental health, and reporting of health in surveys.

Prof Emmeline Taylor

“Stealing with Impunity: Have we decriminalised theft?”

Abstract: Recent attention on the retail crime ‘epidemic’ has highlighted that the police, and criminal justice system, have lost grip on acquisitive crime. With just 4.4% of reported thefts resulting in someone being charged (ONS, 2023), has theft effectively been decriminalised? This presentation draws upon a substantial body of work to interrogate current trends and offer a roadmap for police and industry collaboration to tackle shoplifting, and theft more broadly.

Bio: Emmeline Taylor is Professor of Criminology at City, University of London. She specialises in understanding acquisitive crime and business crime, particularly focusing on the retail sector, as well as new and emerging technologies. Professor Taylor's career spans over 20 years, during which time she has worked in the public, private and academic sectors, and on three continents. Professor Taylor has published extensively on crime-related topics, including six books, the most recent of which, *Armed Robbers* (Oxford University Press, 2022), is based on interviews with 42 incarcerated offenders. Emmeline has published several reports on retail crime and criminal justice, including *It's Not Part of the Job: Violence and Verbal Abuse Towards Shop Workers* and *The Offender to Rehab Programme: An Evaluation*.

Working closely with industry, the police and the Government, Professor Taylor is chair of the Business Crime Reduction Partnerships' (BCRP) National Standards Board; a member of the National Retail Crime Steering Group (NRCSG) chaired by the Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire; a member of the Home Office Commercial Victimisation Survey's (CVS) Expert Panel; and a member of the Metropolitan Police Retail Harm Reduction Partnership. Emmeline hosts the podcast *Retail Crime Uncovered*, which focuses on how to identify and tackle retail crime in all its forms.

Dr Ahmed Waheed

"Polycrisis or Imperial Crisis? Navigating the Eurocentric Trap"

Bio: Dr. Ahmed Waqas Waheed read International Relations at the University of Sussex and his doctorate, from Queen Mary, University of London, was in the fields of political science and international relations. Dr. Ahmed Waqas Waheed is the Executive Director of ROADS Initiative, a knowledge sharing platform which aims to introduce alternative and critical ideas to Pakistan's academic fraternity. He is also an assistant professor in the Department of Government and Public Policy, at the National University of Sciences and Technology, Pakistan. He is the author of multiple books on Pakistan and regularly lectures at foreign policy establishments on narratives, discourses and decolonization. He is currently the Rangoonwala Fellow at the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, Oxford University and is working towards his third book titled "The Myth of Decolonization: Mapping the Coloniality of Pakistan through International Relations".

Dr Alex Williams

"From Polycrisis To Hegemonic Crisis: Theorising Political Complexity"

Bio: Alex Williams is a senior lecturer in politics at the University of East Anglia. He largely teaches about the relationship between contemporary digital technology and political strategy. He is the author of three books, *Inventing the Future: Postcapitalism & a World Without Work* (Verso, 2015), *Political Hegemony & Social Complexity* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2019), and *Hegemony Now* (Verso 2022).