

Rethinking Global Engagement

Nissan Lecture Theatre, St Antony's College, Oxford

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th November 2023

There is a pressing need for European universities to rethink and to re-imagine the way in which they engage globally. The return of geopolitical tensions has ended the era of apparently 'easy' globalization and may be leading to a process of academic deglobalization. A major part of the complexity of the present and likely future has to do with the interaction of the 'old' and the 'new': on one side, the move from global challenges to planetary imperatives and the impact of new technologies and of new forms of scientific knowledge (on economic development, on health, on patterns of social organization and connectivity); and on the other, the 'old' logics of geopolitical rivalry, capitalist instability, nationalist self-assertion, and major war.

This combination presents opportunities for new thinking but also serious challenges. Academics and universities once more face the problems of doing research and organizing institutional connections with politically problematic states. But they also face the dangers of overt politicization and of getting too close to the foreign policies and priorities of governments and others at home, including donors and funding bodies.

The global is changing in other ways too, with the diffusion of power and effective political agency and the longer-term decline in western dominance. Critical and post-colonial scholarship has done much to challenge euro-centrism and to dislodge the all-too-easy European assumptions about the region's cultural and intellectual centrality. But there remain many open questions as to what lies 'beyond critique' and 'beyond globalization'. How, for example, to look beyond western models as benchmarks of judgement and prisms for understanding the changing global order? How to organize research collaboration and the involvement of a new generation of early career researchers in ways that will be very different from old core-periphery models?

This conference is organized under the auspices of the Oxford/Berlin Research Partnership with thanks for their support to the Berlin Center for Global Engagement (BCGE) and in conjunction with St Antony's College, Oxford. The Partnership seeks to foster and support all manner of cutting-edge research. But it is also centrally concerned with developing a basis for joint global engagement, especially with the Global South, and for debating the problems and challenges involved. St Antony's College is a world-renowned centre for research and teaching on global and regional issues.

Wednesday 29th November

12.00 – 12.45: Lunch

12.45 – 14.15: Panel One: The Challenges and Opportunities of Global Engagement

Prof Irene Tracey CBE, Vice-Chancellor, University of Oxford

Prof Julia von Blumenthal, President, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Prof Adam Habib, Director, SOAS University of London

Dr Michael Harms, Deputy Secretary General and Head of the Berlin Office, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Chair: The Lord Patten of Barnes, Chancellor, University of Oxford

14.15 – 14.45: Coffee break

14.45 – 15.00: Welcome and overview of the Partnership and Symposium

Prof Andrew Hurrell and **Prof Cigdem Issever**
(Academic Co-Directors of the Oxford Berlin Partnership)

Prof Nandini Gooptu (Acting Warden, St Antony's College)

15.00 – 17.00: Panel Two: Changing Patterns and Underlying Values

Prof Simon Marginson, Professor of Higher Education, University of Oxford

Prof Beate Kampmann, Director, Charité Center for Global Health, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin

Prof Tim Soutphommasane, Chief Diversity Officer and Professor of Practice in Human Rights and Political Theory, University of Oxford

Dr Eloísa Martín, Associate Professor of Sociology at the United Arab Emirates University and Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Prof Kai Kresse, Vice Director, Leibniz-Zentrum Moderner Orient, Berlin

Chair: Prof Jo Beall, Emeritus Professor and Distinguished Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science

17.00 – 17.15: Comfort break

17.15 – 18.30: Keynote Lecture: 'From the Global to the Planetary'

Prof Dipesh Chakrabarty, Professor in History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

18.30 – 19.30 Reception

Thursday 30th November

9.15 – 9.45: Coffee & Pastries

9.45 – 10.00: Opening of Day Two

Dr Henry Marx, State Secretary for Higher Education and Research, Senate Department for Higher Education and Research, Health and Long-Term Care, Berlin

10.00 – 12.00 Panel Three: Experiences and Lessons of Global Engagement

Prof Alan Bernstein, Director, Oxford Global Health, University of Oxford

Dr Ertuğ Tombuş, Deputy Director, Center for Comparative Research on Democracy, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Mariana Motta Vivian, PhD student Latin America Institute, International Research Training Group 'Temporalities of Future in Latin America', Freie Universität Berlin

Dr Mei-Ling Young, Head of the Financial Intelligence Unit, Monzo Bank, previously doctoral student in international Relations, University of Oxford.

Chair: Prof Andrew Hurrell, Montague Burton Professor of International Relations, University of Oxford

12.00 – 13.30: Lunch

13.30 – 15.00: Panel Four: Politicization and the Intellectual and Academic Worlds Beyond Globalization

Prof Faisal Devji, Professor of Indian History, University of Oxford

Prof Todd H. Hall, Director, China Centre and Professor of International Relations, University of Oxford

Dr Sigrun Abels, Director, Center for Cultural Studies on Science and Technology in China, Technische Universität Berlin

Chair: Prof Elleke Boehmer, Professor of World Literature in English, University of Oxford.

15.00 – 15.30: Closing Remarks

Prof Alex Betts, Professor of Forced Migration and International Affairs and University Local and Global Engagement Officer, University of Oxford

Dr Herbert Grieshop, Head Steering Committee Internationalization, Berlin University Alliance

About the Oxford Berlin Research Partnership

The Partnership was established at the end of 2017 by a memorandum of understanding between the four institutions that form the Berlin University Alliance (the Freie Universität Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Technische Universität Berlin and the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin) and the University of Oxford. The memorandum of understanding was renewed for another five years in November 2022. The goal of the partnership is to enhance the links between Oxford and the Berlin universities and research institutes, and to create an environment for taking forward new projects, covering all areas of academic research as well as initiatives involving the museums and libraries in both Oxford and Berlin. It seeks to foster and support cutting-edge research, including cross-cutting thematic and inter-disciplinary work; knowledge exchange and public engagement; and developing the careers of early career researchers and doctoral students.

The partnership funds visits, joint workshops and mobilities to enable researchers from both cities to collaborate, develop ideas and apply for further funding together.