

Quo vadis, Asia Pacific?

**18 November 2015
River Room, King's College London
Strand WC2R 2LS**

***2.30-2.45pm Introduction to the
Centre***

**Dr Tat Yan Kong (SOAS) & Dr Ramon
Pacheco Pardo (KCL)**

***2.45-3.45pm Opening address:
China's growth: The making of an
economic superpower***

**Dr Linda Yueh (Oxford University &
London Business School)**

***4-5.30pm Political Economy: Where is
the Asia Pacific heading after the
Global Financial Crisis?***

**Speakers: Dr Lena Rethel (Warwick
University), Prof Nobuyuki Sato
(Chatham House & Japan Ministry of
Finance) & Dr Ulrich Volz (SOAS)
Chair: Dr Andy Sumner (KCL)**

***5.45-7.15pm International Relations:
Towards conflict or cooperation in the
Asia Pacific?***

**Speakers: Prof Shaun Breslin
(Warwick University), Prof Chris
Hughes (LSE) & Dr John Nilsson-Wright
(Cambridge University)
Chair: Dr Jim Hoare (Chatham House)**

***7.30-8.30pm Closing Address: What
hope for Asia?***

Prof Danny Quah (LSE)

News

New Asia Pacific study hub launched at King's

Posted on 19/11/2015



A new social science centre providing expertise on the Asia Pacific region has been launched this week at King's.

The [London Asia Pacific Centre for Social Science](#) (LAPC) is a joint initiative between King's and SOAS, University of London and is the first such centre based in the capital and one of very few in Europe focusing on the politics, economics and society of the Asia Pacific.

The founders say the complexity and diversity of what is the fastest growing region in the world demands specialist, inter-disciplinary research and analysis and has also historically received considerably less attention than other regions.

The centre will host regular seminar series, workshops and conferences featuring scholars from UK and overseas examining comparative Asia Pacific political and economic systems, economic integration and EU and international relations. It also welcome collaboration with research centres in the UK and internationally.

At King's it will involve staff from European and International Studies, Geography, the International Development Institute, the Lau China Institute, Law, Management, Political Economy, Social Science, Health and Medicine, and War Studies.

'Vibrant and fast-expanding'

The Centre was launched at King's on Wednesday with a series of talks entitled 'Quo Vadis, Asia Pacific?' and attended by speakers and guests from King's, SOAS, universities of Warwick, Oxford, and Cambridge, London School of Economics and Political Science, Chatham House, and representatives from the South and North Korean, Japanese and Chinese governments, as well as from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Dr Joanna Newman, Vice-Principal (International) said: 'The Asia Pacific region is a vital, vibrant and fast-expanding region which cannot be understood by one or two countries being studied in isolation.

'So I'm delighted that King's and SOAS are here today to launch together this exciting initiative which will bring together social scientists in collaboration and support and which will enable engagement of strategic partners and other institutions across the region.

The inter-disciplinary approach is typical of King's approach as a global-thinking and engaged university which aims to have a tangible, positive impact upon the world.'

Research showcase

Dr Ramon Pacheco Pardo Co-Director of LAPC at King's said: 'The Centre aims to showcase research on the Asia Pacific region being conducted by King's and SOAS scholars, including in collaboration with researchers from other institutions. There is a wealth of expertise at both institutions that both academics and policy makers can benefit from.

'Eventually, the LAPC aims to produce its own original research to foster a better understanding of politico-economic and social dynamics in the Asia Pacific. We think that this research will help countries in the region to continue their extraordinary economic and social evolution.'

Dr Tat Yan Kong, Co-Director of LAPC at SOAS said, 'The Asia-Pacific region is the world's most dynamic economic region. While it is becoming economically more integrated than ever in terms of trade and investment, increasing economic integration has coincided with increasing tensions on the political side, about history, territory and different political systems. The LAPC seeks to further understand the complexities and implications of this paradox by way of inter-disciplinary academic approach.'

Professor Richard Black, Pro-Director (Research and Enterprise) at SOAS, said he welcomed the initiative: 'It's a new

relationship between King's and SOAS and I hope one which will lead to other collaborations between our two institutions.'

ENDS

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