

# UCL EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

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## REVIEW 2021 / 22

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The European Institute is  
UCL's hub for research,  
collaboration and  
engagement on Europe

[ucl.ac.uk/european-institute](https://ucl.ac.uk/european-institute)



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**Roberta Staiger**  
Executive Director  
UCL European Institute

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*The European Institute acts as an important hub for UCL's research, teaching and education on Europe. From hosting the EU Ambassador to the United Kingdom to convening a series of roundtables on the future of European science collaboration, the Institute has played a vital role in cultivating relationships and convening discussions at the highest levels, to ensure UCL remains a key player in European debates.*

**Dr Michael Spence AC**  
President & Provost  
University College London

*The European Institute's events and research on hot topics and deep problems – from erosion of the rule of law in the EU to how climate change affects democracy – keep UCL students and faculty engaged in policy evolution across Europe, maintaining networks of influence and thought leadership for the long term that can weather the ups and downs in the UK-EU relationship.*

**Dr Heather Grabbe**  
Director  
Open Society European Policy  
Institute & Visiting Professor

# Europe at UCL

UCL is a world-leading hub for the study

# About the UCL European Institute

Established in 2010 and a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence since 2016, the European Institute is UCL's hub for research, education and engagement on Europe.

Internally, we enable, develop and support UCL research and teaching activities on Europe across faculties and foster an environment where work on Europe can flourish.

Externally, we engage with policy professionals, civil society and the public to maximise the reach and impact of UCL ideas and expertise.

Since 2020, the European Institute has been located in the Faculty of Laws, with funding contributions from Laws, Arts & Humanities, Social & Historical Sciences and the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies (SSEES).

We work across UCL's faculties to create, curate and showcase research, teaching and engagement on Europe, drawing in expertise from each and every faculty.

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*It has been intellectually rewarding, as well as a great pleasure, to work this year with the European Institute, especially on Music Futures. The energy and commitment they generate is far greater than would be expected given their small team. Their experience of building intellectual community, supporting small grant projects, and making the most of limited resources has been invaluable in bringing together colleagues of all disciplines working on music and sound studies. There is now scope to establish a research centre in this field, to the benefit of staff and students across UCL.*

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**Professor Nicola Miller**

Director

UCL Institute of Advanced Studies

# Institutional leadership on Europe

Shaping UCL's  
European strategy  
and maintaining  
dialogue with  
EU partners

We convened a series of high-level  
roundtables with research leaders,  
and European Institute Visiting



## Leading UCL's response to Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine

We convened senior civil servants, academics, diplomats and parliamentarians for a **closed policy dialogue** with former Estonian President Kersti Kaljulaid on The transatlantidlqassecurity 0 -1.4gm: How has transatlantidlqastKalworld chang.95Td(how ( with former )Tjshould tKal422.Estonit.1 (')74 d?siden7.8

Institutional leadership on Europe

*I was delighted to return to UCL, which is famous for its expertise on Europe, Russia and the Baltics, for a stimulating exchange on the serious challenges facing our continent, with leading academics and influential policymakers. This is a historic time and it's essential that we make the right decisions now to determine Europe's future and security.*

**Kersti Kaljulaid**  
Former President  
of the Republic of Estonia  
2016-2021

*The European Institute's roundtable discussion on the UK-Swiss-EU research relationship was a really valuable resource for the Embassy's work. It managed to bring the leadership of the major research institutions and funders in both countries together and delivered a perspective for bilateral collaboration within and outside EU programmes. This has given the Embassy a foundation for developing a stakeholder perspective which will inform how we establish the new UK-Swiss research relationship at policy level.*

**Dr Lutz-Peter Berg**  
Head of Science  
and Innovation  
Embassy of Switzerland  
to the United Kingdom

*UCL European Institute is an important hub of research, teaching and debate on Europe and the European Union. I am delighted to join its external Advisory Board and look forward to contributing to its further development.*

**His Excellency  
João Vale de Almeida**  
EU Ambassador to the  
United Kingdom

# Innovative teaching and practice-informed pedagogy

The European Institute plays an increasingly prominent role in supporting UCL's teaching excellence on Europe, through innovative and practice-informed pedagogy, teaching across the disciplines and by creating opportunities for UCL students to engage with European Institute Visiting Professors and other external experts.



Contributors to our new module, 'European Politics, Policy and Law in Practice'

## Spotlight on European Politics, Policy and Law in Practice

This year, we delivered a new module, European Politics, Policy and Law in Practice, offered as part of the MSc in European Politics and Policy run by UCL School of Public Policy. The module complements academic study with a curated programme of conversations and skills-oriented sessions with practitioners, leveraging the Institute's strong networks across EU policymaking communities.

Sessions focused on themes from climate change and energy policy to the response to Covid-19, UK-EU relations and the EU's interinstitutional dynamics. In addition, students learned core professional skills, from stakeholder mapping to developing policy briefings.

12 senior practitioners from a diverse range of backgrounds contributed, and students gave the module an average rating of 4.7 out of 5.

Innovative teaching and practice-informed pedagogy  
practice-informed pedagogy



Students on the 2022 European Policy in Practice module at Europe House, April 2022

*The taught module that the European Institute provides for postgraduate students was an amazing opportunity to engage with key stakeholders, and provided a real insight into decision-making at the highest level of European politics.*

**Robert Birch**  
MSc European Politics and Policy, 2022

*This [European Policy and Practice] module broadened my areas of policy expertise and [deepened] my knowledge of how the EU works on a day-to-day basis, which will be invaluable assets in my future career.*

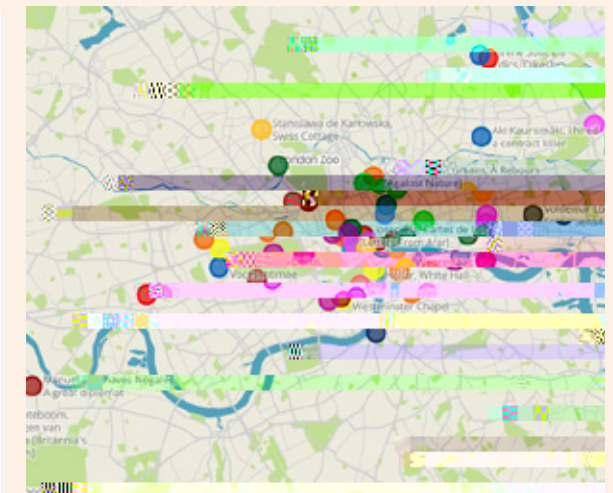
**Emily Blumenthal**  
MSc European Politics and Policy, 2022

*I had the enormous pleasure of discussing EU energy policies and the role of the European Parliament with a group of highly engaged and well-informed MSc students, who asked pertinent questions and showed a real capacity for grasping complex trade-offs and thinking outside the box for policy solutions.*

*In fact, this intensive session gave me several new ideas to use in my daily work of delivering research and analytical support for EU level decision-makers.*

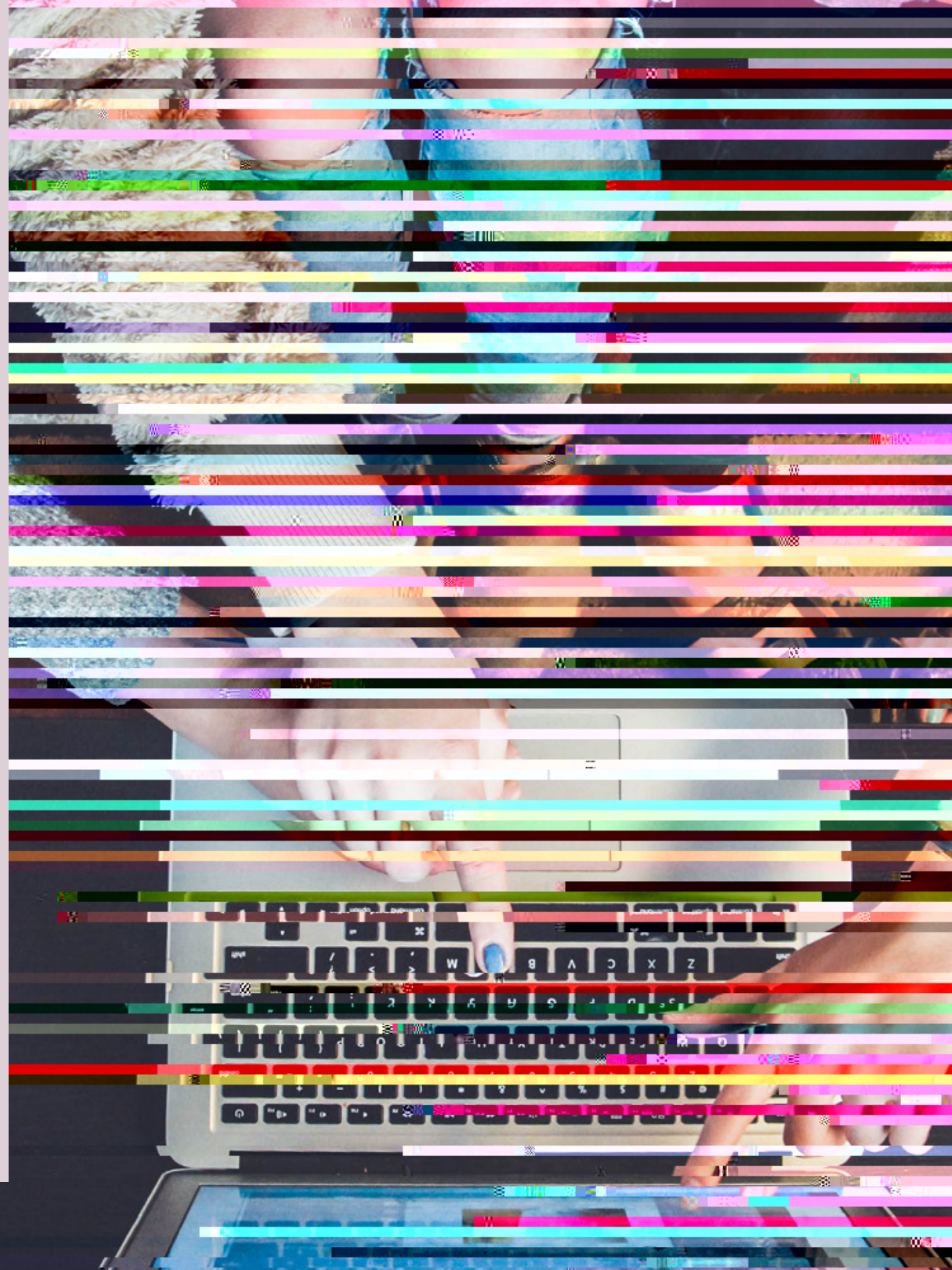
*My impression is that the MSc in European Politics and Policy is a rigorous and cutting-edge programme that is equipping the students with important skills in policy analysis, which they can explore and develop in a wide range of potential career paths.*

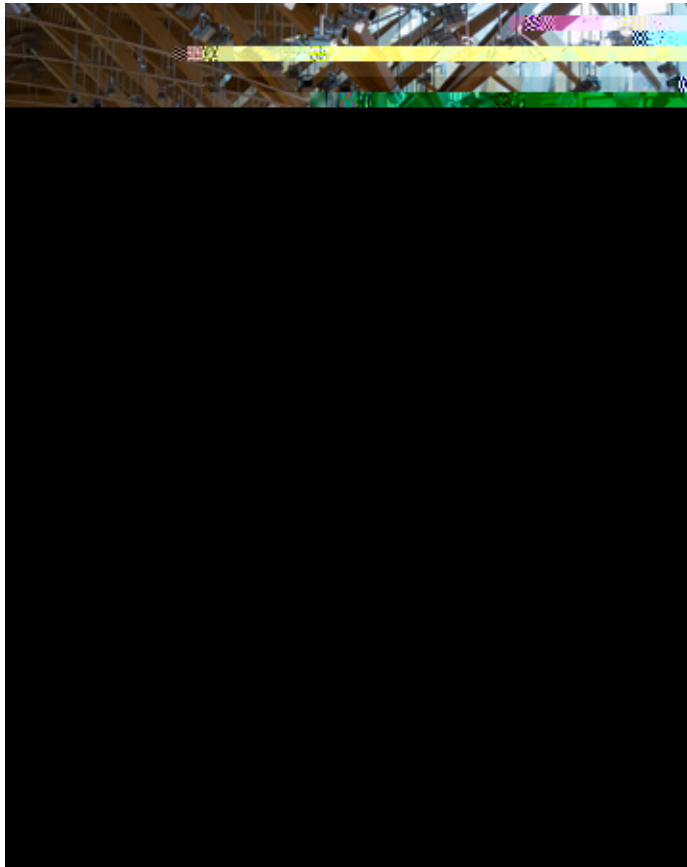
**Dr Alex Wilson**  
EU Energy Policy Specialist  
European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)



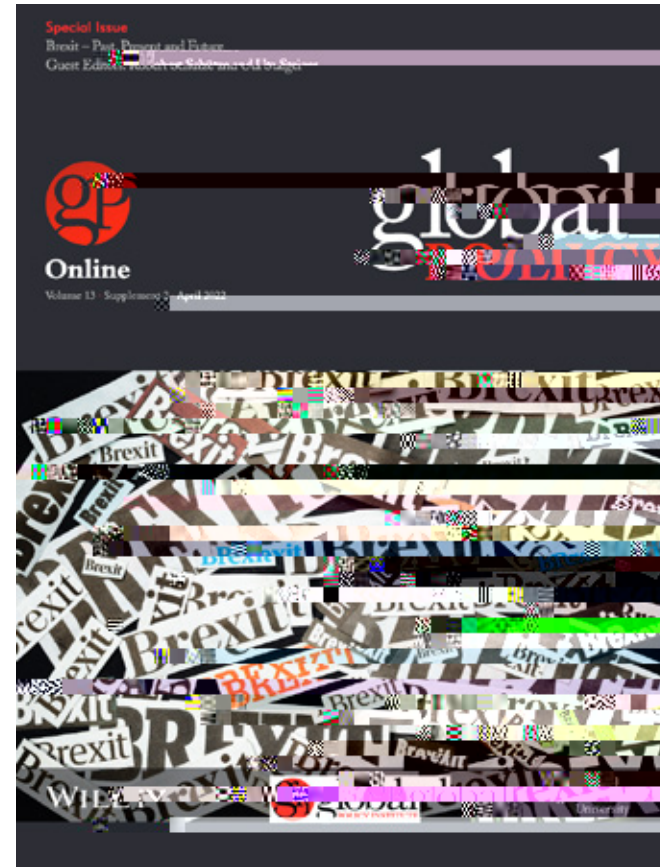
With colleagues in Arts & Humanities, we are also developing the European Literary Map, an innovative teaching tool that will encourage students to explore London through the eyes of leading European artists, intellectuals, musicians and scientists, and for use in UCL summer schools.

# Enhancing the research environment

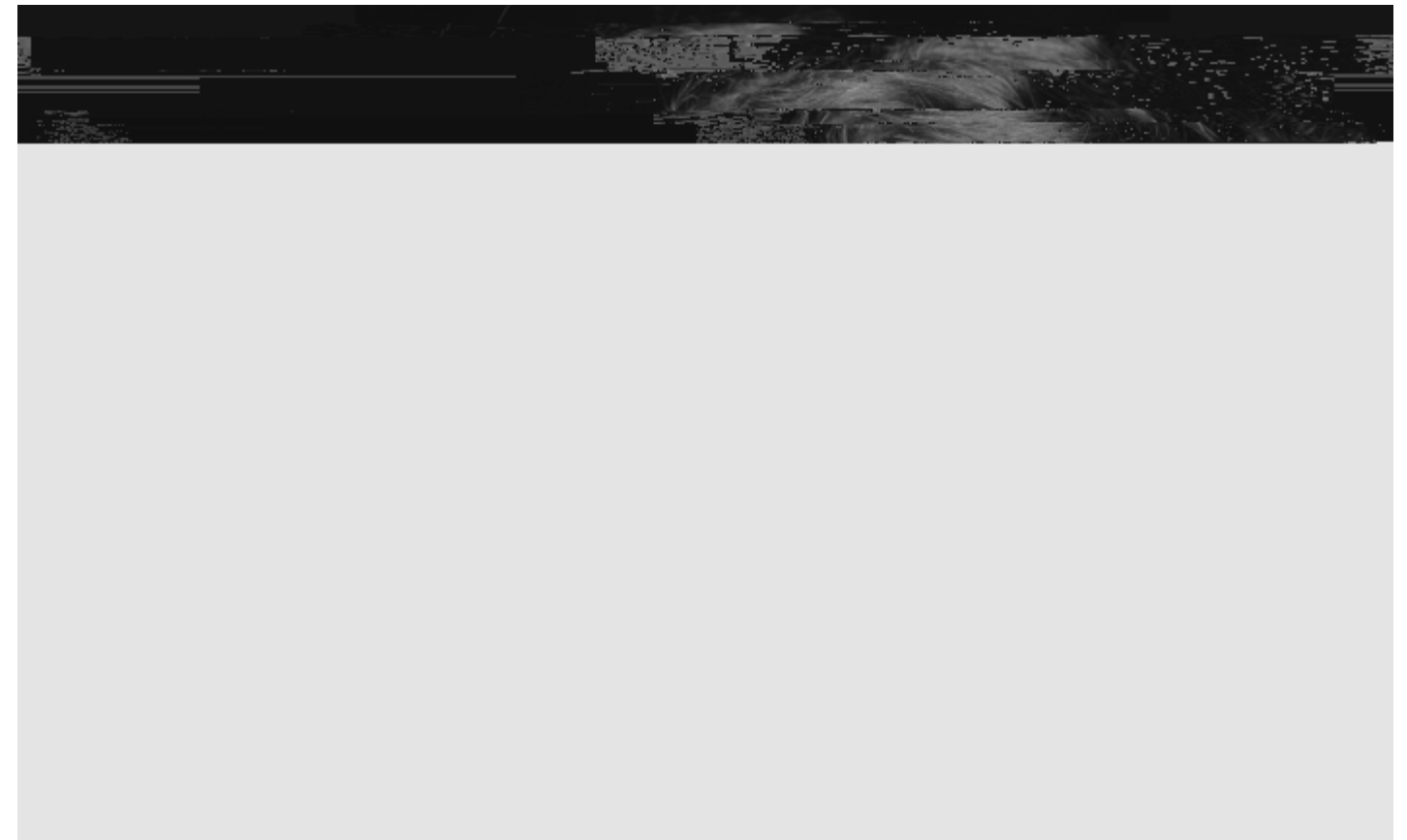




Dr Claudia Sternberg and Dr Uta Staiger are co-editing a book **'Parliament Buildings: the Architecture of Politics'**, which brings together distinguished researchers and architects to explore how parliament buildings shape and are shaped by politics across Europe, for publication by UCL Press in 2023.



Dr Uta Staiger has co-edited a special free to access edition of the journal Global Policy: **"Brexit: Past, Present and Future"**, which brings together twelve senior academics from political science, law and history, among them European Institute Academic Director Professor Piet Eeckhout, for a diachronic analytical perspective on Brexit.



We hosted Professor **Nomi Lazar**, full Professor of Politics in the Graduate School of Politics and International Affairs at the University of Ottawa, as a Visiting Professor at UCL European Institute to pursue research on European extremist movements' use of apocalyptic rhetoric and the threat this can pose to constitutional regimes.

*From political extremism to climate activism, Europe is alive with talk of apocalypse. Yet, we understand little about how and when these volatile narratives work. In the course of a wonderful visit, the European Institute hosted workshops and discussions with interdisciplinary scholars, centred around these subjects, which have significantly advanced my project to develop a core theory of apocalyptic rhetoric.*

**Professor Nomi Lazar**  
Professor of Politics  
University of Ottawa

## Enhancing the research environment

*Music is among the most cherished unifying principles of our troubled age. The ecumenical experiment of UCL Music Futures illustrated this vividly.*

*The Music Futures initiative brought together a rich diversity of disciplines - ranging from architecture and archaeology to cognitive neuroscience and musical performance - spanning UCL and academic and artistic partnerships with Europe and beyond, all united by a common commitment to musical scholarship and creativity.*

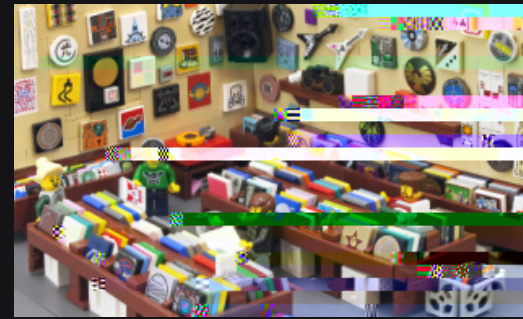
# Music Futures Festival Programme 17-23 June 2022



Singing Cultural Memories  
of Places and Spaces



Visit to PEARL: UCL's new Person-  
Environment-Activity Research Laboratory



Playing with Purpose  
– instruments for (more than) music



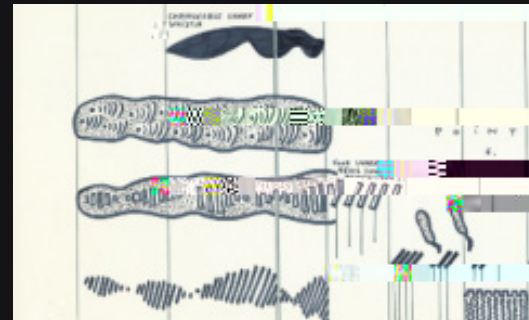
Italian Opera in Global  
and Transnational Perspective



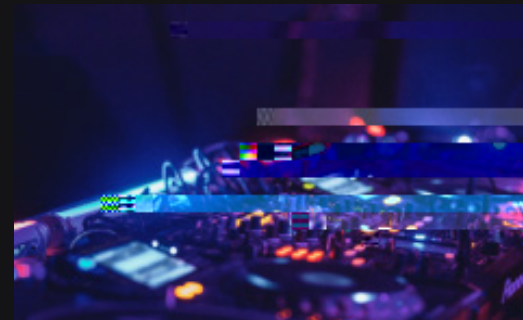
Film premiere and screening:  
Singing Truth to Power: Politics,  
Opera and the Russian State



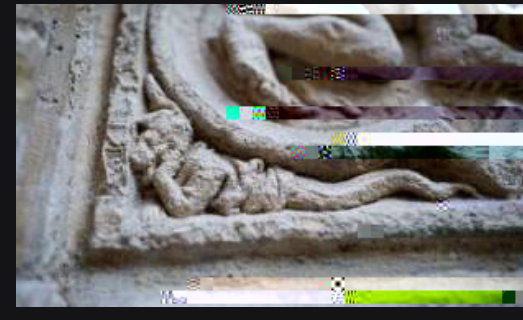
Re-imagining the musical bandstand  
in the 21st century



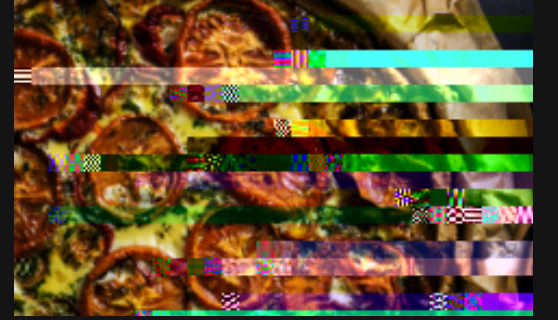
What constitutes music?



UCL Anthrobeats – Data Dance:  
The Sound of Space and Mobility



The Vinteuil Centenary: Music,  
Memory and Repetition in Proust



Ukrainian-themed closing  
Buffet and Drinks



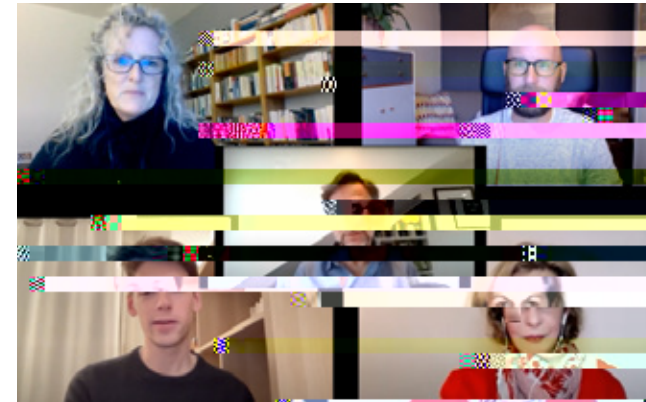
# Extending UCL's reach

Through partnerships, engagement and a lively programme of public events, the European Institute showcases UCL's expertise and ideas on Europe to diverse publics, policy and professional communities across Europe.

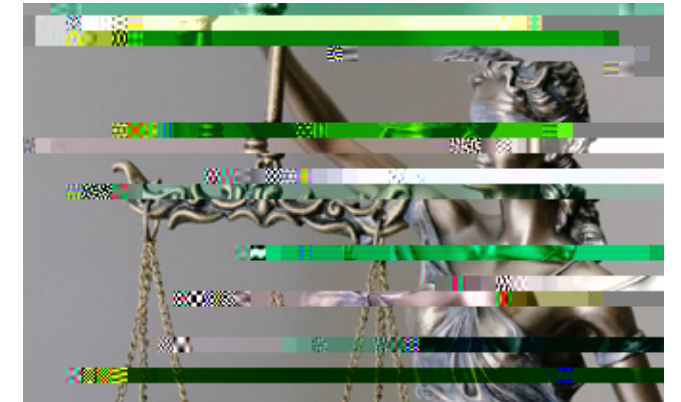
We also aspire to inspire and engage UCL students with an interest in Europe, from across the disciplines.



The European Institute hosted or co-hosted 33 public events, with colleagues across UCL and external partners, reaching a combined audience of over 2000.



France 2022: A very uncertain Presidential election, chaired by Professor Philippe Marlière, and co-hosted with SELCS.



The Human Rights Act Reviewed, a lecture by Sir Peter Gross with UCL Faculty of Laws.



Taking on Putin from the Magnitsky Act to Resisting Russia's War on Ukraine. Chaired by Dr Ben Noble and co-hosted with SSEES and IOE, UCL's Faculty of Education and Society.



Annual Sakharov Debate with the European Parliament Information Office: Covid-19 and intergenerational equity with Professor Sir Richard Blundell, Professor Danny Dorling and Frances Fitzgerald MEP.

Extending UCL's reach through public,  
policy and student engagement



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*The French higher education and research community has long-standing relationships with UCL and especially with the UCL European Institute.*

*This year, the French Embassy has strengthened ties with the Institute, post-Brexit and in the context of the French Presidency of the EU Council, through both the Night of Ideas and a policy dialogue on the evolution of academic competition and collaboration in Europe.*

*We believe that these successful joint events will serve to further strengthen our links and formalise our collaboration in the future.*

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**Dr Minh-Hà Pham**

Counsellor for Science and  
Technology  
Embassy of France to the  
United Kingdom

Extending UCL's reach through public,  
policy and student engagement

We showcase UCL  
ideas on Europe through  
academic commentary,  
short films and podcasts.

We published 52 posts on the UCL  
Europe Blog, which had almost 20,000  
unique views over 12 months.

'Speaking Truth to Power:  
On Politics, Opera and the  
Russian State' explores themes  
of artistic representation, truth  
and political assassination in  
Putin's Russia. It was produced as  
part of the Music Futures initiative.

African American Entertainers in

Extending UCL's reach through public,  
policy and student engagement

We actively seek to create opportunities for UCL students through our work, enabling them to benefit from the European Institute's networks.

We curated **two EU careers sessions** for the UCL Department of Political Science Careers week, with input from EU and UK diplomats and UCL alumni in policy roles in Brussels

We produced **five careers videos** with European Institute Advisory Board members who share their career trajectories and advice with UCL students.

We curated an event on the **Polish Constitutional Tribunal and the Supremacy of EU Law** for LLM students impacted by Covid-19 and partnered with the EU Student Think-Tank on an event on

Extending UCL's reach through public,  
policy and student engagement

*The future of European*



# UCL European Institute staff

**Professor Piet Eeckhout**

Academic Director  
UCL European Institute & Dean  
UCL Faculty of Laws  
[p.eeckhout@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:p.eeckhout@ucl.ac.uk)

**Dr Uta Staiger**

Executive Director  
UCL European Institute  
& Pro-Vice-Provost for Europe  
[u.staiger@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:u.staiger@ucl.ac.uk)

## UCL European Institute Advisory Board

**Lord Anderson of Ipswich KBE QC**  
Brick Court Chambers  
House of Lords (Chair)

**Dame Nicola Brewer**  
Non-Executive Director  
Iberdrola SA and Aggreko plc

**Sabina Ciofu**  
Associate Director - International  
techUK

**Dr Heather Grabbe**  
Director  
Open Society European Policy Institute

**Charles Grant**  
Director  
Centre for European Reform

**Dr Kirsty Hughes**  
Former Director  
Scottish Centre on European Relations

**Elke Kristoffersen**  
Head of Partnerships & Philanthropy  
BOZAR

**Rt Hon Sir David Lidington KCB CBE**  
Chair  
Royal United Services Institute

**Carlos Moedas**  
Mayor of Lisbon

**Anissia Morel**  
Legal Counsellor  
French Embassy  
to the United Kingdom

**John Peet**  
Special reports & Brexit editor  
The Economist

**Quentin Peel**  
Associate Fellow  
Europe Programme  
Chatham House

**Johny Pitts**  
Writer  
photographer and broadcaster

**Dr Martin Porter**  
Executive Chair  
Brussels Cambridge Institute for  
Sustainability Leadership

**Philip Souta**  
Head of UK Public Policy  
Clifford Chance LLP

**His Excellency João Vale de Almeida**  
EU Ambassador to the United Kingdom

**Janet Zmroczek**  
Head of European and American Collections  
The British Library

## UCL European Institute Partners & Collaborators

**This year we are proud to  
have partnered with:**

UCL School of Slavonic  
and Eastern European Studies

UCL Faculty of Laws

UCL Faculty of Arts & Humanities

UCL Department of Political Science  
– School of Public Policy

IOE UCL's Faculty of Education and Society

The Bartlett

UCL Institute of Advanced Studies

Office of the Vice-President  
for External Engagement

Office of the Vice-Provost for Research,  
Innovation and Global Engagement

UCL Global Engagement

UCL Public Policy

UCL Alumni

UCL Grand Challenges

French Embassy in the United Kingdom

Institut Francais du Royaume Uni

British Council France

Embassy of Switzerland to the United Kingdom

UK Science and Innovation Network

UK Mission to the European Union

EU Delegation to the United Kingdom

European Parliament Information Office  
in the United Kingdom

European Youth Foundation

Institut Ramon Llull

Geneva Science Policy Interface

BOZAR

Royal Academy of Music

