

CMRE Conference: 'School choice, opportunity and equity'

(28th January 2016)

Speakers and chairs



Dr Rebecca Allen is Director of Education Datalab, on leave from her academic position as Reader in Economics of Education at UCL Institute of Education. She is an expert in the analysis of large scale administrative and survey datasets, including the National Pupil Database and School Workforce Census. Her research interests include school accountability, measuring performance, pupil admissions and teacher labour markets.

Julian Astle is a policy consultant. Until recently, he was a special adviser for policy to the then deputy prime minister Nick Clegg at 10 Downing Street. Previously he was director of the think-tank CentreForum.



Dale Bassett is Head of Product Reform at AQA awarding body. Previously at AQA, he was Director of Public Policy, and prior to that Research Director at the think tank Reform, where he led on research into public service reform, specialising in education policy. On secondment to the Cabinet Office, he served as adviser to the review of barriers to choice in public services. Before joining the education world, Dale was a City headhunter and co-founder of an online retail business. He is a founding trustee of the National Baccalaureate Trust and was founding chair of governors of Compass School Southwark free school.

Professor Philip Booth is Editorial and Programme Director at the Institute of Economic Affairs; Professor of Finance, Public Policy and Ethics at St. Mary's University, Twickenham; and a member of CMRE's Academic Advisory Council. Previously, Philip Booth worked for the Bank of England as an advisor on financial stability issues and he was also Associate Dean, and later Professor of Insurance and Risk Management at Cass Business School. He has written widely, including a number of books, on investment, finance, social insurance and pensions, and on the relationship between Catholic social teaching and economics.





David Corke is Director of Education and Skills Policy at the Association of Colleges (AoC). As well as working in and leading curriculum and business support areas at a number of FE colleges, David has led commercial and professional services departments at the Peter Jones Foundation and in the IT industry. He is also a qualified teacher who has taught from entry through to Masters level. His doctoral research and broad research interests focus on FE policy and the marketisation of education.

Nick Cowen is a PhD candidate in political economy at King's College London. He was previously a researcher at the think-tank, Civitas. He is the author of *Swedish Lessons: How Schools with More Freedom Can Deliver Better Education*, and co-wrote *Making the Most of the Evidence: Evidence-based policy in the classroom*. He was also a contributing editor to the Core Knowledge UK primary school resource book series published by Civitas.



James Croft is Executive Director of the Centre for the Study of Market Reform of Education and the author and co-author of several reports for the Centre and its partners, including, most recently, *Collaborative overreach: why collaboration probably isn't key to the next phase of school reform*.

Anastasia de Waal is a policy analyst and Deputy Director of think tank Civitas. Her work centres on analysing social and economic trends and evaluating family and education policy. She is also a qualified primary school teacher, specifically trained for inner-city teaching. A regular contributor to broadcast and print media, her publications include *The Ins and Outs of Selective Secondary Schools*; *The Meaning of Matrimony*; *Inspecting the Inspectorate*; and *Second Thoughts on the Family*. She is Chair of national family support charity Family Lives.



Professor Lorraine Dearden is Director of the Education Sector at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), and Professor of Economics and Social Statistics at the Institute of Education, University London (IOE). At the IFS, she directs PEPA (Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis). She also directs the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM). She is Deputy Director of the Centre for the Economics of Education (CEE), which involves researchers from the Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics, and the Institute of Education. She is an Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences and an IZA Fellow.

Tim Emmett is an international education markets specialist, with strong experience in both developed and emerging markets. He directs his own education investment company, Sagacium Limited, and is a CMRE Trustee. Tim began his career in education at Aiglon College, Switzerland, before moving to the University of Warwick, and then to KPMG's education division. He went on to become Business Development Director for CfBT Education Trust, and then at GEMS Education, where he was responsible for developing its Education Solutions consultancy and programme management business. He has a particular interest in supply side reform in schooling and education market development.



Suella Fernandes, MP, is the Conservative Member of Parliament for Fareham. Previously, she was a barrister at London-based No5 Chambers. Suella read Law at Cambridge University, achieved a Masters at the Sorbonne in Paris, and is a qualified Attorney, having passed the New York bar exams.

Amy Finch is Senior Researcher at Reform, where she leads Reform's work on education and skills policy. She has co-authored reports on school freedoms, academy school chains, education productivity, and NHS patient engagement. Prior to joining Reform, Amy worked as a parliamentary researcher to Liberal Democrat MP Simon Wright and previously for Stephen Williams MP.



Professor Sir Julian Le Grand is the Richard Titmuss Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. He is the author, co-author or editor of eighteen books, and has written over a hundred refereed journal articles and book chapters on economics, philosophy and public policy. He was Senior Policy Adviser to Tony Blair, and later chair of Health England, the National Reference Group for Health and Wellbeing for the UK Department of Health. Under the Coalition government, he chaired the UK Cabinet Office's Mutuals TaskForce. Sir Julian has advised the World Bank, the OECD, and the President of the European Commission. He is a Founding Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences; Honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, and a Kings Fund Trustee.



Andrew Harrop is General Secretary of the Fabian Society and leads the society's research on economic and social policy as well as the future of the Labour Party. He was previously Director of Policy and Public Affairs for Age UK. He has been a Labour Party activist since 18 and was a parliamentary candidate in the 2005 general election.

Gabriel Heller Sahlgren is CMRE's Director of Research; Affiliated Researcher at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Stockholm, Sweden; and a PhD student at the London School of Economics. He is the author of *Incentivising excellence: school choice and education quality* (CMRE) and of *Real Finnish Lessons: the true story of an education superpower* (Centre for Policy Studies). He is also the author of the paper 'Schooling for money: Swedish education reform and the role of the profit motive', for which he was awarded the Arthur Seldon Award for Excellence. Gabriel is editor of CMRE's Monthly Research Digest, and a regular education policy columnist for *Economic Affairs* (Institute of Economic Affairs and the University of Buckingham).



Dr Henrik Jordahl is Programme Director at the Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN), Stockholm, where directs the research program 'The Economics of the Service Sector'. He is Associate Professor at Uppsala University, affiliated with its Department of Economics; a member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA); and of the international research networks CESifo and IZA. He is also a CMRE Council Member and Fellow. He specialises in publicly financed services and privatization.

Professor Victor Lavy is Professor of Economics at the University of Warwick, and William Haber Professor of Economics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is a Board Member of the Bureau for Research in the Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD); Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Cambridge, MA; Research Fellow at the Center for Economics and Policy Research (CEPR), and at the Center for Economics Performance (CEP), London. Previously he was Chaired Professor at Royal Holloway, London, and Policy Adviser to the Israel Education Ministry.



Laura McInerney is Editor of *Schools Week* and a regular columnist for *The Guardian*. She taught in East London for six years, initially as a TeachFirst participant and finally as an Advanced Skills Teacher. After writing a book in 2011, *The 6 Predictable Failures of Free Schools ... and How To Avoid Them*, she studied education policy in the US on a Fulbright Scholarship. She has written on education policy and politics for *New Statesman*, *The TES*, and *Prospect*, and appeared on a variety of broadcasts including Radio 4's Today, Radio 5 Live, BBC London and LBC's breakfast show.

Neil McIntosh, CBE, is CMRE's President. He is the former CEO of the CfBT Education Trust, which he led from being a one service EFL provider to become a worldwide provider of education services. He has been at the forefront of significant education policy developments, including the growth of free schools and academies, and was the driving force behind the development of the CfBT Schools Trust multi-academy chain. Prior to joining CfBT, Neil was director of the homeless charity Shelter, and before



that Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), a charity providing skilled fieldworkers to developing countries around the world.



Fraser Nelson is editor of *The Spectator* and a *Daily Telegraph* columnist. He is also on the advisory boards of the Centre for Policy Studies and the Centre for Social Justice. He was political editor of *The Spectator* from 2006-09 and was previously political editor of *The Scotsman*. He started off at *The Herald* in Glasgow and spent five years on the business desk of *The Times* before becoming its Scottish Political Correspondent. He was named Political Columnist of the Year in the 2009 Comment awards, and in 2013 he was named Editor's Editor of the Year, the highest award in magazine journalism.

Tim Oates, CBE, is Group Director of Assessment Research and Development at Cambridge Assessment. In 2010 he published *Could do better*, which laid down the principles for the review of the National Curriculum in England. He was chair of the Expert Panel for Review of the National Curriculum. He has published widely on assessment and is a member of Ofqual's Standards Advisory Group. Tim is a visiting professor at the University of Leeds and a Fellow of Churchill College Cambridge.



Dr Elizabeth Passmore, OBE is Chief Schools Adjudicator at The Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA). Prior to joining the adjudicators in 2004, Elizabeth worked as a science teacher and HM Inspector of Schools, transferring to Ofsted when it was established in 1992. She was Head of the School Improvement Division for six years and finally Director of Inspection, responsible for the inspection of schools and local authorities.

Professor Toby Salt is Chief Executive of Ormiston Academies Trust. Previously, Toby was Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director at the National College for School Leadership. He has worked in a variety of education leadership roles, most recently as Executive Head of a federation of three schools. Prior to this he was appointed by Prime Minister Tony Blair to direct the Department for Education Innovation Unit to lead innovation projects in education. A regular contributor to a number of professional journals, he has also held a number of voluntary and non-executive director roles, including appointment to the Cabinet Office Innovators' Council; board member of UCAS and UCAS Media Ltd; Non-Executive Director and Governor of Chichester College, Trustee; and Lead Director for a national children's charity.





Dr Nima Sanandaji is a CMRE Research Fellow, and at the Centre for Policy Studies also. He has written numerous books and reports on policy areas such as integration, entrepreneurship, women's career opportunities, welfare state policy and market reforms. Recent publications include *Scandinavian Unexceptionalism*, *SuperEntrepreneurs* (with Tino Sanandaji), and *Renaissance for Reforms* (with Stefan Fölster). Nima was co-founder of the Stockholm-based think tank Captus, which he led as CEO for several years until 2011. He has conducted research at Chalmers University of Technology, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), and Cambridge University, and has worked with several think tanks also, including the Centre for Policy Studies where he holds a research fellowship. He holds a PhD from the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm.

Ryan Shorthouse is the Founder and Chief Executive of Bright Blue. Ryan was previously a Research Fellow for the think tank the Social Market Foundation and was part of the team that won Prospect Magazine's Think Tank of the Year in 2012. Prior to 2010, he was a researcher for Rt Hon David Willetts MP when he was Shadow Education Secretary, during which period he authored the Conservative Party's Childhood Review, and an adviser to the Conservative Party on families and education, formulating party policy and managing media relations. He was the Political Secretary of the Bow Group, a centre-right think tank. He is a trustee of the Young Women's Trust, and was previously a trustee for the Family and Childcare Trust and the Daycare Trust. He sits on the advisory council of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.



Luke Sibieta is Programme Director in the Education, Employment and Evaluation division at the Institute for Fiscal Studies. Luke's research interests include education policy, political economy and poverty and inequality. In the recent past, he has conducted research into school funding; the impact of the home learning environment on child outcomes; trends in top incomes; trends in child poverty and income inequality; and the politics of tax policy.

Dr Olmo Silva is Associate Professor at the London School of Economics and a Research Director of the Spatial Economics Research Centre and Research Associate at the Centre for Economic Performance, both at the LSE. Olmo's research focuses on the economics of education and entrepreneurship, and urban and real estate economics. He has been an expert witness to the Education Committee on school governance, school autonomy and pupil attainments. He is a Governor at the Ark Putney Academy.





Carole Willis is Chief Executive of the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER). Well known and widely respected across the education research sector, Carole has extensive experience in both the private and public sectors. She was formerly Chief Analyst and Chief Scientific Adviser at the Department for Education. Carole's background is in economics, and she has experience of working in a range of government departments, leading teams of professional analysts and policymakers, as well as in the private sector.