



ESRC-LBS-CEPR-FUQUA Conference on Public Policies for Innovation

Organisers: Daniel P. Gross (Duke Fuqua) and Paolo Surico (London Business School)

19-20 March 2026
London Business School
Ratcliffe Building
Lecture Theatre 10

AGENDA

Thursday, 19 March

- 8:30+ **Registration**
- 8:50 **Opening remarks: Surgei Guriev (Dean, London Business School)**
- 9:00 **Session: Industrial Policy**
- Industrial Policy in the Global Semiconductor Sector**
 Giulia Lo Forte (Federal Reserve Board)
- Ray of Hope? Solar power in China**
 John Van Reenen (London School of Economics, CEPR, and NBER)
- 10:20 **Break**
 (tea and coffee available)
- 10:40 **Session: Industry Dynamics**
- Born Different: Entrepreneurship through Inventor Mobility, Innovation, and Growth**
 Salomé Baslandze (Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta)
- Lost in Transition: Financial Barriers to Green Growth**
 Maarten De Ridder (London School of Economics and CEPR)
- 12:00 **Lunch**

13:00 **Panel: Microeconomic Policies and Macroeconomic Growth**

Featuring:

David Miles (UK Office for Budget Responsibility)

Devrim Demirel (US Congressional Budget Office)

Doug Elmendorf (Harvard University and NBER; former Director, US CBO)

Kent Smetters (University of Pennsylvania and NBER)

Moderated by: **Heidi Williams** (Dartmouth College and NBER)

14:20 **Break**

(tea and coffee available)

14:40 **Session: Public R&D and Economic Development**

Public R&D Meets Economic Development: Embrapa and Brazil's Agricultural Revolution

Heitor S. Pellegrina (Notre Dame University)

The Public Origins of American Innovation

Paolo Surico (London Business School and CEPR)

16:00 **Break**

16:20 **Keynote: Philippe Aghion** (Collège de France, INSEAD, London School of Economics, CEPR; 2025 Nobel Laureate), presenting "Are Ideas Getting Harder to Find?"

Introduced by: Antonin Bergeaud, HEC Paris and CEPR

17:20 **End of Sessions**

18:30 **Dinner at London Business School**

Featuring: **John Van Reenen** reflecting on his experience in economic policymaking

Friday, 20 March

9:00 **Session: Geographic Integration**

The Geography of Innovative Firms

Marta Prato (Bocconi University and CEPR)

The Incentive and Welfare Effects of the European Unitary Patent

Otto Toivanen (Aalto University School of Business, Helsinki GSE, and CEPR)

10:20 **Break**

(tea and coffee available)

10:40 **Session: Political Institutions**

Ready, Set, Unify: The Uneven Race between Trabants and BMWs

Sina Ates (Federal Reserve Board)

Dictators, Democracies, and Discoveries: The Effect of Political Institutions on Science

Fabian Waldinger (LMU Munich and CEPR)

12:00 **Lunch**

13:00 **Session: Scientist and Inventor Productivity**

Productivity Beliefs and Efficiency in Science

Kyle Myers (Harvard Business School and NBER)

The Tax Lives of Inventors

Stefanie Stantcheva (Harvard University, CEPR, and NBER)

14:20 **Closing remarks: Bill Janeway (University of Cambridge)**