

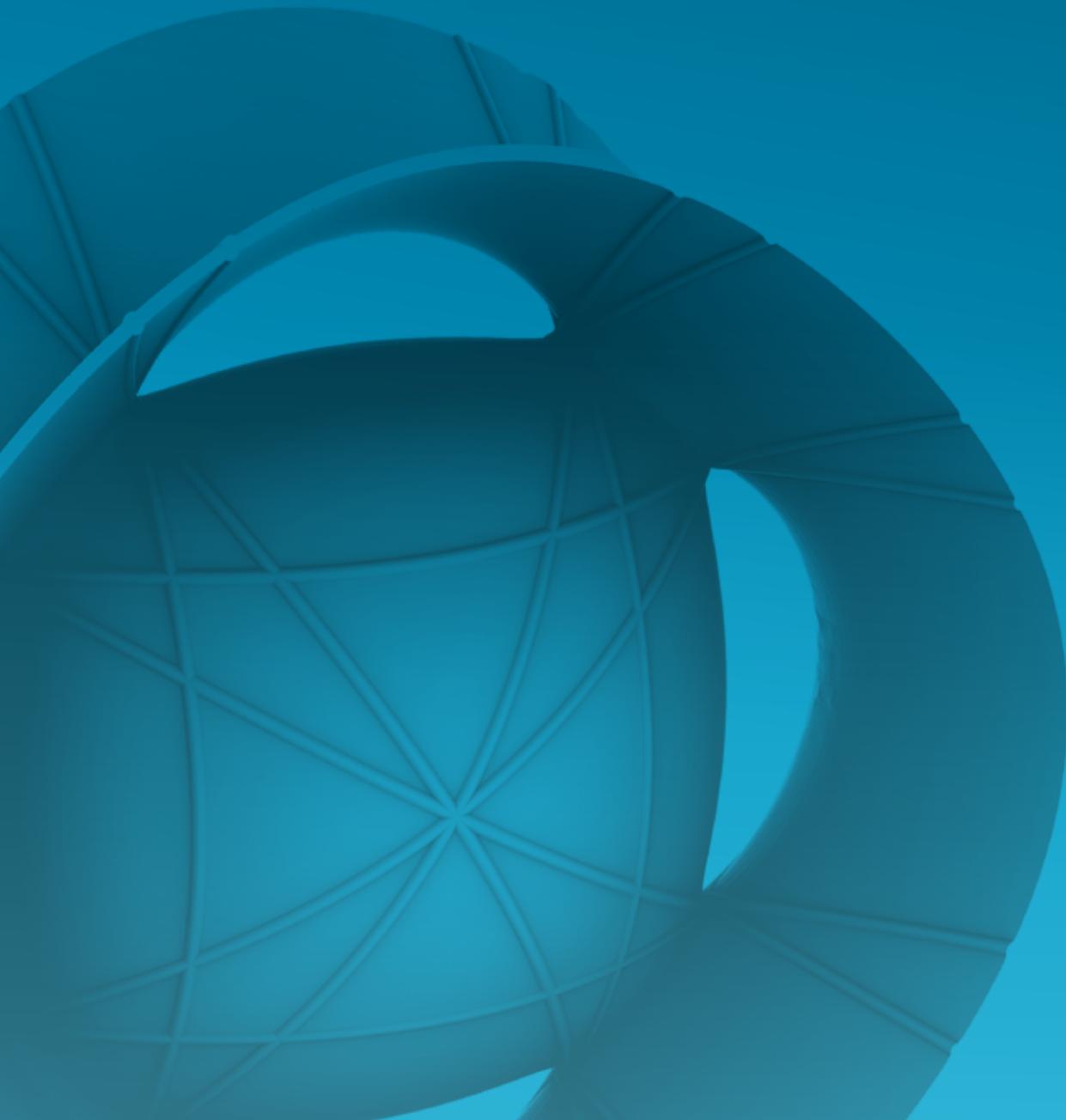


Loughborough
University

Institute of
Advanced Studies

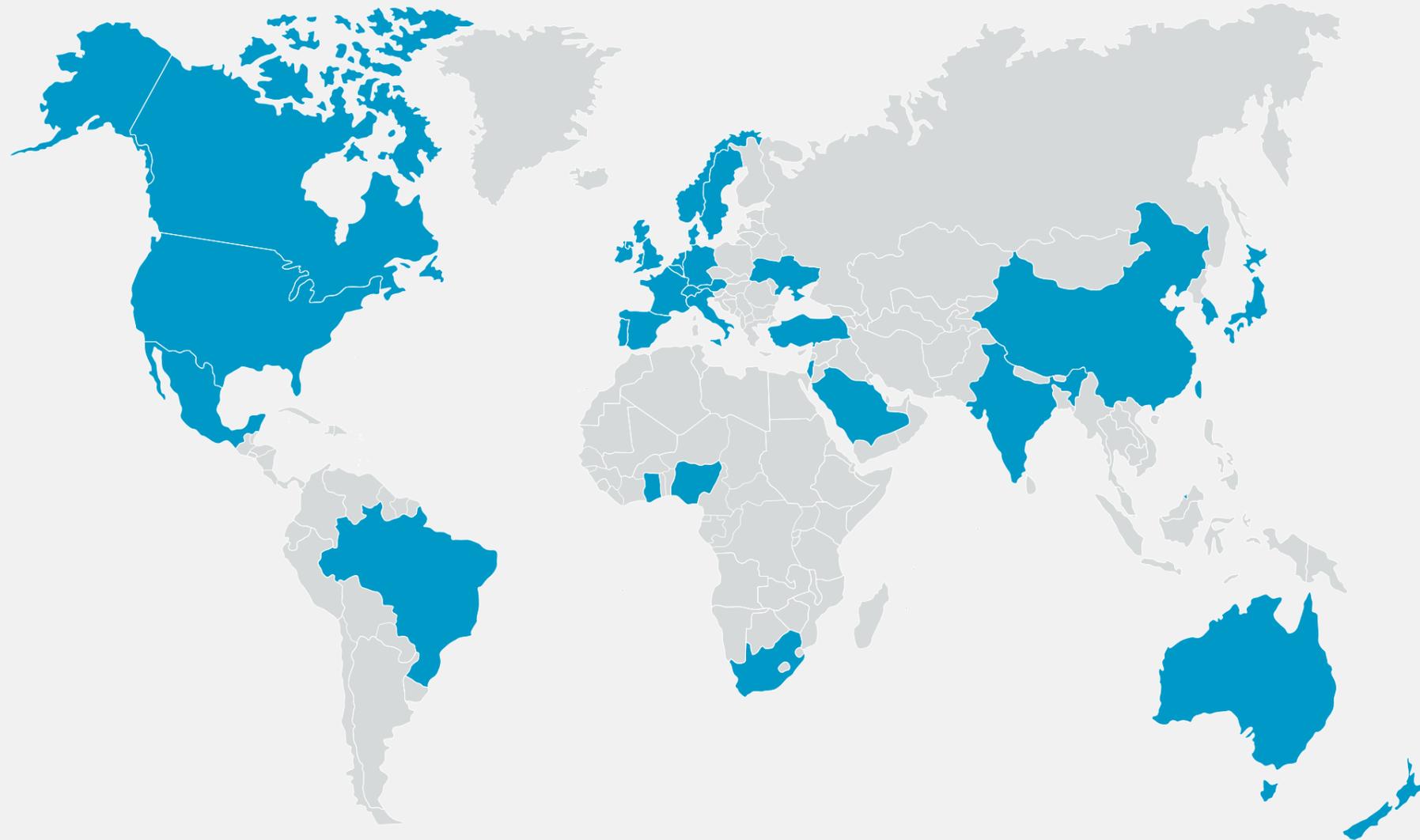
Research Legacy and Impact

2024-25 Academic Year



IAS Legacy in Numbers

August 2023 – July 2025



67
PUBLICATIONS



65
PUBLISHED
ARTICLES



4
GRANT
APPLICATIONS



9
SCHOOLS THAT
HAVE HOSTED
FELLOWS



100
VISITING
FELLOWS



31
COUNTRIES

200

LOUGHBOROUGH
ACADEMICS WHO HAVE
HOSTED A FELLOW

Introduction

The Institute of Advance Studies aims to promote an outstanding, interdisciplinary research environment at Loughborough University. Worldwide, IASs are only located at top research universities and are seen as pinnacles of inquiry in these institutions. This type of institute indicates that a university has “arrived” in the top echelons worldwide, thus helping to build the brand of the University.

The IAS contributes to internationalisation by bringing top-level international scholars to campus and featuring them in collaborative research, public lectures, and other outreach activities. Our IAS not just focuses on humanities and social science; we also focus on ‘hard’ and natural sciences and, in fact, receive a substantial number of applications from colleagues in these disciplines.

Our main aim is to enhance Loughborough Univeristy’s international reputation by building academic communities – bringing together scholars from different fields to share insights, and to engage in conversation and dialogue on a regular basis. And we are achieving this aim!

Since its conception in 2017, the IAS hosted over 440 Fellows from nearly 50 countries. These Fellows have been hosted by academics across all career stages from every School at Loughborough, and these visits have resulted in not just in academic successes – i.e. collaborative proposals, publications, patents, reciprocal visits, but also in meaningful conversations and the so-much-treasured time to think, to debate, and to learn.

The IAS continues to evolve and grow. Building on a strong foundation of research culture and mutual learning laid by the previous IAS Director and now Emeritus Professor Marsha Meskimmon, I have been enjoying this growth since my appointment in 2024. This year we saw the unprecedented number of applications for the Residential Fellowships, and we are excited that we are now able to host more Residential Fellows, all very diverse in terms of their disciplines and geographies. This increase is possible thanks to the support from the University. We are now able to offer two residential accommodations that allow to host not just the Fellows but their families, making our Fellowships more inclusive.

We are also engaging more with LU Arts and the Policy Unit; this is particularly evident in our Summits (that replaced the Themes, allowing for more focussed, high-profile week-long engagement with a particular topic explored from interdisciplinary perspectives) and Spotlight series. We continue to support the international reputation of our academics: notably, the UNESCO Day (see page 20), held earlier this summer, brought together high-level dignitaries, UNESCO representatives, and UK government officials who keenly learnt about the exciting research carried out by LU’s UNESCO Chairs.

The IAS evolution is also only possible because of the support from our Advisory Board (see p.7). Their contributions to the IAS are invaluable: not only do they bring the best ideas for our initiatives, but they are also critical for promoting the IAS in the Schools and wider, and for supporting the selection of all our Fellows. Similarly, our Doctoral Leaders are invaluable to the IAS! They are often the first person who meets the Fellows, and their enthusiasm for ensuring that the LU doctoral researchers’ community benefits from learning from the Fellows is incredible.

This report celebrates our exciting, wide-reaching and impactful legacy to date, which encompasses a range of outcomes and ongoing momentum in cutting-edge, world-leading research. We are proud of what we have achieved to date, and very much look forward to the future!

Professor Ksenia Chmutina
Director of the IAS

IAS Timeline

September 2016

Professor David Deacon is appointed as the Institute’s Inaugural Director

May 2017

The IAS officially launches

September 2017

The IAS launches its Themes programme with ‘Communication’ & ‘Migration’

August 2018

Professor Marsha Meskimmon is appointed Director of the IAS

October 2020

The IAS secures its first accommodation property specifically for the new Residential Fellow programme. The ‘IAS Flat’ in the Telford area of campus

August 2019

The IAS establishes its Doctoral Leaders programme

March 2019

International House is opened

2020 & 2021

‘Time’ theme and ‘Arctic Geopolitics’ Spotlights run entirely online in response to Covid

May 2022

First ever IAS Festival on Transitions featuring live performances and film screenings and first collaboration with Fruit Routes on campus

September 2022

Pacifism and Non-Violence Spotlight concludes, ran by Dr Alexandre Christoyannopoulos, leading to the creation and publication of a journal by the same name.

January 2024

Professor Ksenia Chmutina is appointed Director of the IAS

January 2024

The IAS secures it’s second accommodation property specifically for Residential Fellows, the ‘IAS House’ just outside campus.

October 2024

The Research Summits programme launches with the ‘Africa Summit’, superseding the previous Themes programme

September 2024

The IAS welcomed it’s 400th Fellow since its inception

Standout Legacy



The Prose Editors and General Editors for The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn
(photo: Mel Evans)

Professor Elaine Hobby

Editing Aphra Behn in the Digital Age (E-ABIDA) stands as a major legacy of the IAS, bringing together international, interdisciplinary scholars to create the first comprehensive edition of Aphra Behn's works. During her career, Aphra Behn (1640-89) was a playwright, poet, translator from French, and a novelist. The first professional woman writer in English, she was also the first person of any gender or nationality to write a novel focussing on an imagined uprising of enslaved people, and the first to present from a woman's point-of-view experiences of sexuality and love. Each of the Fellows has undertaken world-leading research into Behn's fiction and into its cultural contexts, and when these two volumes of The Cambridge Aphra Behn appear they will transform the ways in which such matters as white people's understanding of slavery, women's experience of sexual desire, and the emergence of the novel as a genre can be understood.

In June 2023, IAS hosted a week-long meeting of a team of eight people who are contributing to the Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn (1640-1689), of which I am lead General Editor. Four of those scholars (two from the USA, two from the EU) received Fellowships from IAS to support their travel to Loughborough. The other four, all from the UK, were able to obtain financial support from their own universities so that they could

participate. The General Editors of that edition were also present throughout, as was one member of our Editorial Board. In addition, the IAS made possible an online meeting between the editors and other members of the Board.

The Fellowship was immensely successful, and the first of the 1000-page volumes that they are contributing to will be submitted to CUP in early 2026, for publication later that year; the second volume will follow soon thereafter. The team has also built strong academic and personal relationships with one another, and further collaborations at conferences and for publications have already followed.

The key purpose of the Fellowship was to build the team's knowledge and understanding of one another's research, facilitating their exchange of information, and thus deepening their research findings, so as to speed the completion of their volumes, and raising their already very high standard. The facilities of IAS – the fact that we could alternate whole-team meetings and smaller group ones in a range of settings – made those exchanges relaxed and focused. The Fellowship also made it possible for the Cambridge University Press editors to meet informally over lunch with two key research groups in SSH, the Textual Editing Group and the Medical Humanities Research Group.

Professor Arianna Maiorani

Arianna Maiorani is Professor in Linguistics, Multimodality and Kinesemiotics in the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. Maiorani's ground-breaking use of multimodal theory to explore dance as an embodied form of communication underpins her position as a global innovator in the burgeoning research area of kinesemiotics. She has long recognised the value of international research collaboration to the development of interdisciplinary work and has engaged actively with the Institute of Advanced Studies, bringing Professor John Bateman (University of Bremen) and Dr Jason Hawreliak (Brock University, Ontario) to Loughborough as IAS Visiting Fellows, collaborating with Fulbright Scholarship Fellow Professor Erik P. Bucy, and hosting more than a dozen other international Fellows as co-lead of the IAS Annual Theme, Time, in 2020-21.

Maiorani's collaboration with Bateman has been exceptionally fruitful. Following a pilot project in partnership with the English National Ballet in 2017, Maiorani and Bateman were awarded a prestigious AHRC-DFG grant for The Kinesemiotic Body in 2021, followed by joint symposia, publications and edited issues in journals such as Humanities and Social Sciences Communications (2022) and Frontiers in Communication (2023). Maiorani's major research monograph, Kinesemiotics: Modelling How Choreographed Movement Means in Space (2021), also flourished in the context of this enduring collaboration. Maiorani and Hawreliak are currently working on a co-authored publication on their research on videogames and on a joint pilot project on video games and EDI in collaboration with Canadian game studios.

Maiorani and Bucy have already successfully delivered several papers at international conferences proposing a ground-breaking method for analysing movement-based communication in broadcast political debates and are working on a major grant application for developing this approach into educational contexts. For this reason, Maiorani has been granted a residency at Texas Tech University in 2025, where she will work with Professor Bucy on a new publication and on a major research project involving Loughborough University and Texas Tech University.

Dr Maiorani has been fulsome in her praise of the support she has received for her research through the Institute of Advanced Studies, referring to the IAS as 'absolutely fundamental' in developing and maintaining strong relationships among international academics. In Maiorani's words:

"I'm actually really proud of having been involved in so many activities with the IAS. ... I think the IAS is a really important platform for interdisciplinarity. True interdisciplinarity. They make an effort to have people from various, sometimes very distant, research areas meet on a scheme, for example, or meet on a common interest and have really meaningful conversations in an informal, but nonetheless academic, environment. The IAS offers precisely this very, very precious opportunity."

Maiorani's research success demonstrates the potential of bringing international and interdisciplinary collaboration to the heart of intellectual and creative enquiry. We are pleased that the IAS was able to play a facilitating role in making this happen and we look forward to her next projects in kinesemiotics.



The Prose Editors and General Editors for The Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn
(photo: Mel Evans)

IAS Board & Doctoral Leaders

A new structure to further strengthen the IAS, an advisory board was established in the 2023-24 academic year, to provide input on selection panels and the forward direction of the IAS. Board members will serve a three-year team to assist with the continuity of knowledge within the IAS.

IAS Board Members for 2023-24 to 2025-26 academic years



Left to right - Professor Wael Bahsoun, Dr Duncan Depledge, Professor Arianna Maiorani, Dr Martin Sykora, Professor Thomas Tufte, Dr Samantha L Winter

In August 2019, the Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS) at Loughborough University launched its Doctoral Leaders programme – a distinctive initiative designed to bridge doctoral researchers directly with the IAS's vibrant research ecosystem. This programme empowers doctoral candidates to take on leadership roles within IAS's activities while gaining frontline exposure to international research networks.

Doctoral leaders benefit from direct contact with Visiting Fellows, offering a rare opportunity to engage closely with world-leading scholars who bring fresh perspectives from across the globe. These interactions enrich doctoral training, broadening academic horizons and enhancing collaborative skills.

Moreover, Doctoral Leaders play a proactive role in steering PGR sessions—be it organizing workshops, seminars, or discussion forums. This hands-on involvement develops leadership, event-management, and facilitation capabilities, strengthening both their soft and academic skill sets. Through such sessions, they also help shape PGR peer learning and dialogue, positioning them as catalysts within the postgraduate research community and enabling their colleagues with access to bespoke and unique training sessions.

The programme serves as a dual benefit: while it raises doctoral researchers' academic and professional profile, it also contributes to IAS's mission by fostering an internal culture of collegial

research exchange. Doctoral Leaders bridge the gap between PGR studentship and academic research, thereby enriching both individual development and institutional research momentum.

Since 2019, the IAS has supported 20 doctoral leaders which has led to several success stories, including:

Monia Del Pinto, Lecturer, and former IAS Doctoral Leader (2020 – 2021):

"As a former IAS Doctoral Leader, my continued connection with the Institute since 2020 has been deeply enriching, and the IAS's diverse programme of events has consistently broadened my academic network, sparked new research ideas, and inspired interdisciplinary collaborations. This recent hosting opportunity has once again shown the IAS's role as a catalyst for intellectual exchange."

Umer Jadoon, PhD researcher and former IAS Doctoral Leader (2023-2024):

"Serving as a Doctoral Leader at IAS strengthened my communication, leadership, and networking skills while engaging with researchers worldwide. It broadened my academic networks, raised my visibility as a doctoral researcher, and deepened my appreciation of global research priorities and how disciplines overlap."

For the first time in 2025-2026, the IAS welcomes its first multi-year Doctoral Leaders having retained Yajie Hu and William Norriss from the 2024-2025 academic year.



Recent cohort of Doctoral Leaders 2024-25
Left to Right – Esther Mgbemeje, Will Norriss, Yajie Hu

Open Programme

The IAS Open Programme invites applications from academic colleagues to host a short-term IAS Visiting Fellow.

The remit of the scheme is completely open – we welcome applications to host outstanding scholars from any field or discipline. The scheme enables awardees to initiate or extend research collaborations, raising international connections and profile. Colleagues from all nine Schools have received Open Programme Funding, and the IAS has brought 187 Visiting Fellows to date to Loughborough's campuses through the programme.



Colleagues from all 9 Schools



22 Rounds



187 Visiting Fellows



37 Countries

Open Programme 2023-24



Left to right in the image above:

Row 1

Dr Adam Heathcote – St. Croix Watershed Research Station of the Science Museum of Minnesota

Professor Alessandro Rubino – University of Bari Aldo Moro

Professor Ana Isabel Zermeño Flores – University of Colima

Dr Caroline Ritter – Texas State University

Professor Danilo Rothberg – São Paulo State University

Row 2

Associate Professor Endre Lund Eriksen – The Norwegian Institute for Children's Books

Dr Felicity Gray – Nonviolent Peaceforce

Dr Fransiska M. Bossuyt – ETH Zurich

Dr Godfrey Ndlovu – University Of Cape Town

Professor Helena Cooper-Thomas – Auckland University of Technology

Dr Jacob Remes – New York University

Professor Joel Stillerman – Grand Valley State University

Row 3

Dr Jonny Hansen – Scania CV AB

Professor Josef Fahlén – Umeå University

Professor Kalanit Efrat – University of Agder

Associate Professor Lisanne du Plessis – Stellenbosch University

Dr Marina Cino Pagliarello – European University Institute

Professor Richard Jackson – University of Otago

Professor Scott Gabriel Knowles – Korea

Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)

Row 4

Viviana Shiffman MSc – University of British Columbia

Dr William (Patrick) McClanahan – Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law

Dr Yoel Asseraf – Ruppin Academic Center

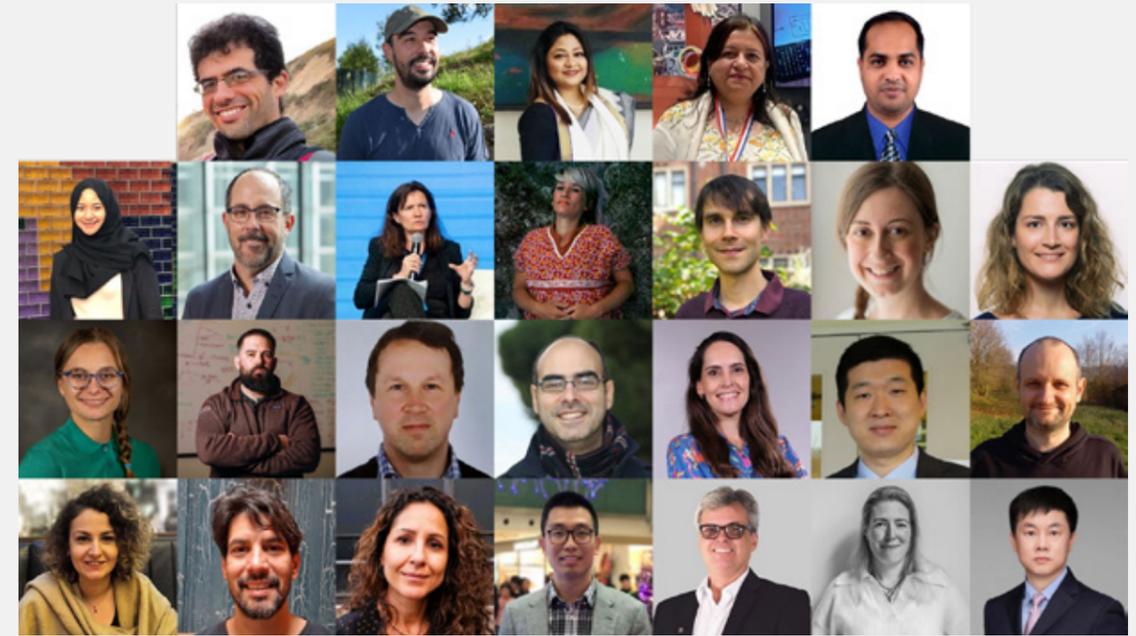
Dr Yolandi Burger – University of Johannesburg

Dr Yuzhou Sun – Fudan University

Dr Zahoor Hussain Farooqi – University of the Punjab

Professor Zhen Wen – Soochow University

Open Programme 2024-25



Left to right in the image above:

Row 1

Dr Achituv Cohen – Ariel University

Dr Alberto Doretto – University of Eastern Piedmont

Dr Amrita Jash – Manipal Academy of Higher Education

Ms Ananya Bhattacharya – Banglanatak Dot Com

Dr Anshuman Sharma – Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Varanasi

Row 2

Dr Ardila Hayu Tiwikrama – National Taipei University of Technology

Professor Bruno Charbonneau – Royal Military College Saint-Jean

Dr Carmen Pérez González – University Carlos III De Madrid

Cassie Thornton – Independent Artist

Dr Ilya Chevyrev – University of Edinburgh

Dr Sara Bonati – University of Genoa

Dr Estefania Cuenca Asensio – Politecnico di Milano

Row 3

Dr Giulia Borriello – Kent State University

Dr Gregory Pearcey – Memorial University of Newfoundland

Dr Jens Martin Turowski – GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences

Professor Liberato Ferrara – Politecnico di Milano

Ms Maura Della Flora Flores – Universidade do Vale dos Sinos

Professor Peng Zhang – City University of Hong Kong

Dr Petr Siegl – Graz University of Technology

Row 4

Dr Pinar Nuhoğlu Kibar – Hacettepe University

Professor André Reyes Novaes – Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Professor Mariana Araujo Lamago – Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro

Professor Ye Zhou – Shenzhen University

Professor Renato de Oliveira Moraes – Universidade de São Paulo

Dr Tanja D. Hendriks – KU Leuven

Professor Terry Tao Ye – Southern University of Science and Technology

Open Programme Successes from all Schools



We have been very pleased to welcome a wide variety of Fellows across all disciplines and schools through the Open Programme, furthering collaboration, writing papers and developing new connections. All of the IAS seminars noted by Open Programme Fellows can be found on the **IAS YouTube Channel** by scanning the QR code.



School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering

In October 2024, former Doctoral Leader Dr Monia Del Pinto, hosted Dr Sarah Bonati from the University of Genoa in Italy. Dr Bonati delivered the seminar "*(Re)producing nature in climate change: examples from Italy*".



School of Aeronautical, Automotive, Chemical and Mechanical Engineering

In May 2025, Professor Anna Croft hosted Dr Ardila Hayu Tiwikrama from the National Taipei University of Technology in Taiwan. Dr Tiwikrama delivered the seminar "*A novel generation of sorbents capable of capturing carbon dioxide using ionic liquids and deep eutectic solvents*".



School of Science

In February 2025, Dr Joanne Eaves hosted Dr Giulia Borriello from Kent State University in the United States. Dr Borriello delivered the seminar "*Examining relations between patterning, cognition, and achievement in reading and mathematics*".



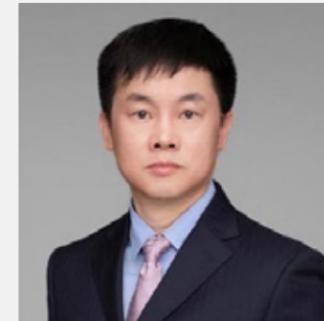
Loughborough University London

In May 2024, Professor Helen Drake hosted Dr Marina Cino Pagliarello, from the European University Institute in Italy. At the London campus Dr Pagliarello delivered a seminar on "*Universities as informal diplomatic actors?*". This visit also coincided with the final events of the 'Gestation' Theme, drawing to a close the Themes programme with some excellent collegial activity.



Loughborough Business School

In May 2025, Dr Sara C Klohn Reader hosted Dr Pinar Nuhoğlu Kibar from Hacettepe University in Turkey. Dr Kibar delivered the seminar "*Exploring the Intersection of Learning, Visualisation and Infographic Design*".



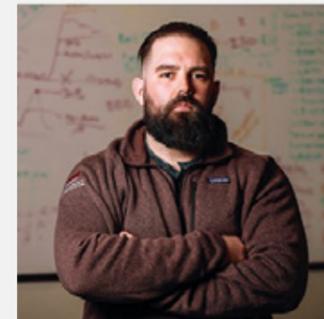
School of Mechanical, Electrical and Manufacturing Engineering

In May 2025, Dr Jakob Skarabot hosted Dr Gregory Pearcey from the Memorial University of Newfoundland in Canada. Dr Pearcey delivered the seminar "*Decoding motoneuron firing to illuminate diversity in human movement control*".



School of Social Sciences and Humanities

In June 2025, Dr Kate L. Mathers hosted Dr Alberto Doretto from the University of Eastern Piedmont in Italy. Dr Doretto delivered the seminar "*Siltation in rivers: Causes, impacts, and new approaches for biomonitoring*".



School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences

In February 2025, Dr Joanne Eaves hosted Dr Giulia Borriello from Kent State University in the United States. Dr Borriello delivered the seminar "*Examining relations between patterning, cognition, and achievement in reading and mathematics*".



School of Design and Creative Arts

In May 2024, Professor Helen Drake hosted Dr Marina Cino Pagliarello, from the European University Institute in Italy. At the London campus Dr Pagliarello delivered a seminar on "*Universities as informal diplomatic actors?*". This visit also coincided with the final events of the 'Gestation' Theme, drawing to a close the Themes programme with some excellent collegial activity.

Residential Fellows



Since starting in 2020, the IAS Residential Fellowship programme has welcomed 33 high profile Fellows each to stay in Loughborough for a month at a time, allowing more focused time to concentrate on writing papers, grant applications and developing networks. We'd like to highlight here the Residential Fellows from recent years. All of the IAS seminars noted by Residential Fellows can be found on our [IAS YouTube Channel](#) by scanning the QR Code.

2023-24 Residential Fellows



Left to right in the image above -

Dr Daniel H. Karney – United States, Ohio University. Collaborating with Professor Monica Giulietti and Dr Morakinyo Adetutu from the Loughborough Business School. Dr Karney's seminar was "[Understanding Carbon Leakage from Climate Policy](#)".

Dr Junior Nomani – New Zealand, Auckland University of Technology. Collaborating with Dr Mazher Iqbal Mohammed from the School of Design and Creative Arts. Dr Nomani's seminar was "[Machining manufacturing research and moving towards current trends in the field](#)".

Dr Benjamin Robinson – Germany, Oversight International. Collaborating with Professor Ed Brown from the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. Dr Robinson's seminar was "[Engaging the Entire Humanitarian Clean Cooking System: Unlocking Institutional Scale](#)".

Professor Jane Chin Davidson – United States, California State University. Collaborating with Emeritus Professor Marsha Meskimmon and Dr Rachael Grew from the School of Social Sciences

and Humanities. Professor Davidson's seminar was "[Environmental Performance: Art, Science, and Trans Terminology for Ecological Justice in the Global Context](#)".

Dr Rudabeh Shahid – United States, Oberlin College. Collaborating with Dr Ronan Lee from Loughborough University London. Dr Shahid's seminar was "[Geopolitics and Statelessness in South Asia](#)".

Dr Alison Barnes – Australia, Western Sydney University. Collaborating with Dr Robert Harland from the School of Design and Creative Arts. Dr Barnes' seminar was "[Graphic heritage: Politics, power & placemaking](#)".

Ms Zandile Martha Nomathemba Myeka - South Africa, Nelson Mandela Foundation. Collaborating with Dr Robert Harland from the School of Design and Creative Arts. Ms Myeka's seminar (in conjunctions with Open Programme Fellow Dr Yolandi Burger) was "[Named after Nelson' & digital creativity within archival practices](#)".

2024-25 Residential Fellows



Left to right in the image above -

Dr Arnoud Arps – Netherlands, University of Amsterdam. Collaborating with Professor Emily Keightley from the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. Dr Arps's seminar was "[Memori Melompat: Jumping Memory, Popular Culture, and the Indonesian War of Independence](#)".

Dr Carla Maria dos Santos Filipe Baptista – Portugal, University Nova of Lisbon. Collaborating with Professor James Stanyer from the Department of Communication and Media. Dr Baptista's seminar was "[Imagining Democracy in Television: Portugal 1974-1976](#)".

Dr Maria Carinnes Alejandria – Brunei, Universiti Brunei Darussalam. Collaborating with Professor Ksenia Chmutina from the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering. Dr Alejandria's seminar was "[Localizing Resilience in Urban Communities in Southeast Asia: Community-based Knowledge and Responses to Flooding during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)".

Dr Ranit Chatterjee – India, RIKI India Pvt Ltd. Collaborating with Professor Ksenia Chmutina from the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering. Dr Chatterjee's seminar was "[Building Ecosystem Service Resilience through Customary Regulatory Mechanism: Case Study of Indian Sundarbans](#)".

Professor Josef Fahlén – Sweden, Umeå University. Collaborating with Professor Paul Downward from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences. Professor Fahlén's seminar was "[The social organisation of sport – investigating separatist and integrative ambitions in Indigenous sport and their implications for participation, organisation and society](#)".

Professor Jeffrey A. Nittrouer – United States, Texas Tech University. Collaborating with Professor Daniel Parsons, Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation. Professor Nittrouer's seminar was "[Geomorphic Evolution of Peatland Streams: Uniquely Boring but Ecologically Critical Landscape Systems](#)".

Dr Andrey V. Ivanov – United States, University of Wisconsin – Platteville. Collaborating with Dr Alexandre Zagoskin from the School of Science. Dr Ivanov's seminar was "[Birth of an Empire: Feofan Prokopovych and the Metamorphosis of Petrine Russia](#)".

(Not pictured) Dr Maali D. Alshammari – Saudia Arabia, Hail University. Collaborating with Dr George W Weaver from the Department of Chemistry. Dr Alshammari's seminar was "[Creating a Research Culture in Young Institutions: Strategies for Growth, Collaboration, and Innovation](#)" (though this session was not recorded, at the speakers request).

Associate Professor Cecilia González Tokman – Australia, University of Queensland. Collaborating with Professor Wael Bahsoun from the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Associate Professor Tokman's seminar was "[A Journey into Random Dynamical Systems and Multiplicative Ergodic Theory](#)".

Dr Eefje Hendriks – Netherlands, University of Twente. Collaborating with Professor Ksenia Chmutina from the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering. Dr Hendriks' seminar was "[Rebuilding Lives: Understanding Decision-Making and Impacts through Post-Disaster Housing Assistance](#)".



IAS Themes



7 themes



109 Fellows



22 Countries

IAS Themes bring leading international researchers to the University to work with colleagues in areas of established and emergent research excellence, brought together through the catalyst of the Theme.

Our Themes are selected through a competitive process, and are delivered by a management team comprising colleagues from across disciplines and career stages. Since 2017, the IAS has delivered seven themes (including the current themes Water and Sound), hosting 109 Visiting Fellows to date.

Having previously run 10 annual themes between 2017 and 2023 (Communication, Migration, Geometry, Motion, Nation, Water, Sound, Time, AI: Facts, Fictions, Futures and Breathe), the IAS closed out its Theme programme with the 11th and final - "*Gestation: Bodies, Technologies, Ecologies, Justice*", held in 2023-24 academic year on both the East Midlands and London campuses.

Gestation was focused around two sets of events – Bodies & Technologies in November 2023 at the Loughborough campus, and Ecologies & Justice in May 2024 at Loughborough University London.

Note – Themes have now been replaced by a Research Summit programme starting in the 2024-25 academic year (see page 17).



Bodies & Technologies Fellows

Top row, left to right –

Dr Isabela de Oliveira Dornelas – Germany, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

Professor Holly Thorpe – New Zealand, University of Waikato

Professor Mary E. Fissell – United States, Johns Hopkins University

Professor Hideyasu Shimadzu – Japan, Kitasato University

Ecologies & Justice Fellows

Bottom row, left to right –

Dr Luiza Prado de Oliveira Martins – Germany, Independent Artist

Dr Lindsay Jane Barnes – India, Jan Chetna Manch Bokaro

Dr Asa Kroik – Sweden, Boska publishing house

Dr Sophie Lewis – United States, Independent Artist

Ms Nompumelelo Gumede – South Africa, University of KwaZulu-Natal

Gestation is a complex negotiation of culture, biology and politics constituted through entanglements of human and non-human agents and practices that extend beyond the flesh. As reproductive rights and freedoms currently face attacks internationally and gestational inequalities continue to be exposed, there has been much innovative rethinking around gender, kinship, reproduction and care. Feminist and queer theorists propose alternative, sometimes utopian societal arrangements to overturn hierarchies of patriarchal colonialism, rethinking gestation beyond narrow hetero- and cis- normative understandings.



Gestation was led by Dr Pandora Syperok (LUL), Dr Eleanor Morgan (SDCA), Dr Emma Pullen (SSEHS), Dr Ana Cristina Suzina (LUL).

This theme covered a broad range of topics under the overall banner of Gestation, and all of talks from this theme can be found on our **IAS YouTube Channel**

Research Summits

In the 2024-25 academic year, the IAS launched a new programme, Research Summits. The Summits are week-long events bringing leading international scholars – academics, policymakers, artists, activists and/or public intellectuals – to the University to work with Loughborough colleagues in setting ambitious and innovative research agendas for the future. It is an adventurous engagement with ideas and a research enquiry that takes risks to generate thought leadership through international dialogue and collaboration.

Africa Summit



Dr Oluwasola (Sola) Afolabi opens the Africa Summit in October 2024

We launched the Research Summit programme with the 'Africa Summit', an event that marked a significant milestone in the university's global engagement efforts. Under the topic *"Resilience and Adaptability for Climate Change: Lessons from Sub-Saharan Africa,"* the Summit brought together experts, academics and community leaders from Africa and strategic stakeholders with interests tied to the continent to explore strategies for addressing the world's most pressing challenges through innovation, collaboration, and inclusion.

The summit was a strategic commitment to highlight Sub-Saharan Africa's unique contributions and transferable lessons to tackling climate change and other critical issues such as health, development, and community-building. It was also a testament to Loughborough University's dedication to building enduring partnerships and fostering meaningful dialogue between the U.K. and Africa.

Africa Summit co-leads Dr Hibbah Araba Osei-Kwasi & Dr Oluwasola (Sola) Afolabi said:

"The Summit's thematic focus extended beyond climate resilience to include discussions on sports, health, and community development. Coincidentally aligning with Black History Month's theme, "Reclaiming Narratives," the summit showcased Africa's indigenous, proactive approaches to climate resilience—bringing attention to the solutions, and strengths but also challenges to resilience, challenges to inclusive communities often overlooked in global climate dialogues. Our goal was to move beyond traditional narratives, shining a light on African contributions to sustainability and framing these narratives around leadership/innovation and strengths rather than victimhood. We were intentional in inviting leading experts, including those from the African continent who could speak across three thematic areas: sports, health and well-being, climate change and net zero, and vibrant and inclusive communities. Their deep contextual understanding has provided valuable insights into what truly works on the ground—and what does not.

As Special Envoys to the region, we approached the Summit with two core objectives: first, establish a unique platform for knowledge exchange and second, foster meaningful collaboration and networking opportunities. Participant feedback overwhelmingly affirmed that both objectives were successfully realised, leaving a lasting impact on all involved.

By exploring insights from Africa's lived experiences, the Summit has inspired actionable strategies for sustainability and equity. It has also showcased the potential of interdisciplinary collaboration to address climate change and the broader developmental challenges of our time."



Africa Summit Fellows

Top row, Left to right –

Professor Cheryl Potgieter –
South Africa, Durban University of Technology

Dr Janet Adeyemi –
Nigeria, Women in Mining in Nigeria

Bottom row, Left to right –

Dr Lin Sambili –
United Kingdom, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Professor Samuel Nii Ardey Codjoe –
Ghana, University of Ghana

Spotlights and Special Events

Festival of Failure

In June 2024, the IAS hosted the 'Festival of Failure' Spotlight. The Festival of Failure was led by Dr Michael Shaw (School of Design and Creative Arts), Professor Lisa Jackson (School of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering), Dr Mark Burnley (School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences) & Dr Afzal Ashraf (School of Social Sciences and Humanities).

Failure is often invisible, and within the 'winning' mentality of the modern world it is an almost taboo subject. One might controversially argue that success is the tip of an iceberg, below which resides the 'failure' of many individuals, systems, and the relationships between them. Recent events show these failures can affect entire nations as well as individuals, be it physically, socially, or mentally. From the world's conflict zones and the

migration of peoples to the welfare of athletes and management of crime, across society and countries there is a pattern of failure to act or failure from acting. This viewpoint casts failure as wholly detrimental, yet the failure of a structure, body, material, idea, government, policy, or process can also precipitate its development.

The festival of failure, through its talks, discussions and events sought multidisciplinary advances in mental, physical, creative, systemic, and structural resilience to failure in order to better:

Accept, exploit, and learn from failure. minimise risk aversion and the fear of failure. Anticipate, identify and remedy points of failure. Manage the failure 'envelope'. Deal with the consequences of failure once inevitable. Use failure to understand structures, systems, culture, and society.



Festival Fellows

Professor Antulio J. Echevarria II - South Africa, Durban University of Technology

Professor Ruqiang Yan - United Kingdom, The Commonwealth Secretariat

Professor Niels Ørtenblad - Nigeria, Women in Mining in Nigeria

Associate Professor Wyke Stommel - Ghana, University of Ghana]



UNESCO Day

In July 2025, Loughborough University hosted a special event to celebrate UNESCO's global mission, bringing together researchers, students, policymakers, and leaders from the University, the UK National Commission for UNESCO, HM Government, and UNESCO.

Prof Richard Giulianotti, Prof Michael Wilson, and Prof Qiuhua Liang. It highlighted the strong partnership between UNESCO and its Chairs – an initiative established in 1992 that connects higher education institutions worldwide with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to advance the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. These Chairs provide expert insight that helps shape UNESCO's strategy and global policy development.

The event, held on the East Midlands campus and organised by the Institute of Advanced Studies, showcased the work of three UNESCO Chairs based at the University:



In conjunction with the main UNESCO Day event, the IAS also hosted two Open Programme Fellows, Ms Ananya Bhattacharya (UNESCO Global Network of Facilitators) & Dr Carmen Pérez González (UNESCO Chair in Educational Linkage Through International Sports). Each Fellow also delivered a seminar on their area of research, Ms Ananya Bhattacharya – *"Storytelling for Inclusion and Development"* & Dr Carmen Pérez González – *"Leveraging the playing field: harnessing sport as a tool to ensure compliance with international law"*

Returning Fellows

It has been a great pleasure of the IAS to support return visits via a 'Fellowship Path' for IAS Fellows - with Fellows initially coming to Loughborough on the Open Programme, then being successful in obtaining a Residential Fellowship; or coming on a Residential Fellowship, and then going on to secure prestigious Externally Funded Fellowships for longer visits and deeper collaborations.



Professor José Ferreira Alves

Professor José F. Alves is a Professor of Mathematics at Porto University and a leading expert in ergodic theory and dynamical systems. He has published more than 40 research articles and 2 books. His joint paper with C. Bonatti and M. Viana, 'SRB measures for partially hyperbolic systems whose central direction is mostly expanding'. *Invent. Math.* 140 (2000), no. 2, 351–398, is considered one of the most influential papers on the topic of smooth ergodic theory and partially hyperbolic systems.

Previously a Residential Fellow of the IAS back in July of 2023, Professor José Ferreira Alves delivered the seminar "[A probabilistic approach to chaos](#)". Professor Alves is now back with us in Loughborough, on a year-long Royal Society Wolfson Fellowship until May 2026.

This Fellowship continues the collaboration of Professor Alves with Loughborough's Professor Wael Bahsoun from the Department of Mathematical Sciences.

Professor's Alves and Bahsoun have recently published a paper, which was worked on during the initial IAS Residential Fellowship. The paper was titled "[Impulsive Lorenz semiflows: Physical measures, statistical stability and entropy stability](#)" and was published in the *Journal of Differential Equations*.



Professor Josef Fahlén

Josef Fahlén, PhD, is Professor at Umeå University, Sweden, and Visiting Professor at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences in Oslo, Norway. Currently, Professor Fahlén serves on the editorial boards of the *European Sport Management Quarterly*, the *International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics*, the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, and acts as Associate Editor of the *European Journal for Sport and Society*.

Professor Fahlén first visited the IAS during November 2023, collaborating with Professor Alan Bairner from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences. Professor Fahlén then applied to the Residential Fellowship programme, securing a visit in April of 2025, during which he delivered the seminar "[The social organisation of sport – investigating separatist and integrative ambitions in Indigenous sport and their implications for participation, organisation and society](#)".



Professor Jane Chin Davidson

Jane Chin Davidson is an art historian/curator whose research focuses on transnationalism in relation to Chinese identity, feminism/ eco-feminism, performance/ performativity, and global exhibitions of contemporary art. Her recent publications include the forthcoming *Companion to Contemporary Art in a Global Framework* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2023) co-edited with Amelia Jones, the monograph *Staging Art and Chineseness: Politics of Trans/Nationalism and Global Expositions* (University of Manchester Press, 2020) and the co-edited volume *Global and World Art in the Practice of the University Museum* (Routledge, 2017).

Professor Davidson first visited the IAS as part of the Transitions Festival during May 2022, collaborating with Emeritus Professor Marsha Meskimmon and Dr Rachael Grew from the School of Social Sciences and Humanities. This was then successfully developed into a bid for a return visit on the Residential Fellowship programme, whereby we welcomed Professor Davidson again during April of 2024. Here she delivered the seminar "[Environmental Performance: Art, Science, and Trans Terminology for Ecological Justice in the Global Context](#)".

The Future of the IAS

Consortium of Institutes of Advanced Study

Loughborough's IAS is member of the Consortium of Institutes of Advanced Study (CIAS); LU IAS one of 24 IAS across the UK to join this organisation. The remit of the CIAS is:



Building Capacity:

CIAS promotes disciplinary innovation and builds research capacity across disciplinary boundaries, while encouraging creative collaborative activities of a multi-, inter-, or post-disciplinary kind. It shares resources and expertise, and organises conferences, seminars and workshops across the group.



Fostering Collaboration:

CIAS takes a lead on collaboration between humanities, social and natural sciences including medicine and technology. It develops proposals for collaborative projects within and between Institutes, and facilitates collaboration in relation to visiting fellows, seminars, conferences, and shared capacity building, including hosting a pairing scheme to support those running UK-based Institutes of Advanced Study.



Shaping Policy:

CIAS acts as a national reference group in development of future policy and works jointly to ensure effective networking and lobbying on shared matters of concern. It boosts the national and international visibility of the best current research in UK and Irish Higher Education Institutions.

Loughborough's IAS intends to leverage these connections to help build and share better ways of working, further develop Fellowship schemes and ways of reaching the best international researchers to bring to Loughborough to collaborate with our staff.

Collaboration with Leicester Institute of Advanced Studies

The Institutes for Advanced Studies at the University of Leicester and Loughborough University are pleased to launch a new joint fellowship scheme. This Scheme allows prospective Fellows to spend time at both institutions to widen academic connections. This Fellowship scheme aims to: raise the profile of and encourage interdisciplinary research and collaborations across both institutions, and foster collaborations between Loughborough University and the University of Leicester.

This call is live and accepting applications until **Friday 12 December 2025**.

This exciting initiative supports visits taking place up to **Wednesday 15 July 2026**, and is designed to enhance the visibility of interdisciplinary research across both institutions, in collaboration with the Civic University Partnership.

The Stuart Biddle Fellowship and Simon Marshall Lecture

In 2024, Loughborough University was approached by Professor Stuart Biddle, a former academic from the School of Sport, Exercise and Health Sciences, with a generous philanthropic offer to support a scholarship initiative. Following discussions with the IAS, it was agreed that this donation would establish the Stuart Biddle Fellowship.

A key component of the Fellowship will be the Simon Marshall Lecture, named in memory of one of Professor Biddle's former PhD students and close friends. This annual public lecture will serve as a tribute to Simon Marshall's legacy and contributions to the field.

The IAS is proud to support this initiative, which aligns closely with its commitment to fostering interdisciplinary research and academic excellence. The first Biddle Fellow is expected to be appointed in Spring 2026.

The IAS extends its sincere gratitude to Professor Biddle for his generosity and vision; we look forward to working in partnership to bring this meaningful programme to life.

Opportunities and Deadlines

As noted on the previous pages of this report, there are three key programmes to obtain IAS funding: Loughborough colleagues can apply to host Fellows through the Open Programme and Research Summits; external international researchers can apply directly to be a Fellow through the Residential Fellowship Programme.

Open Programme

The IAS Open Programme invites applications from Loughborough University academic colleagues to host an international scholar as an IAS Visiting Fellow, with IAS logistical and funding support up to £3500.

Visits funded through the Open Programme scheme are expected to initiate or extend international research collaborations leading towards sustained research activity with a legacy. We anticipate that applications will include substantive plans for future research engagement and high-calibre outputs. Funded applications should enhance Loughborough's international research reputation and extend the range of the University's research partnerships.

IAS Visiting Fellows should be outstanding scholars operating at the cutting edge of their disciplines at any career stage. The programme funds the Fellow's visit, and applicants must demonstrate the intended outcome of the visit as part of their application form.

Future Open Programme submission deadlines:

5pm on Friday 16th January 2026 – for visits taking place between May and July 2026

5pm on Friday 17th April 2026 – for visits taking place between August and October 2026

5pm on Friday 17th July 2026 – for visits taking place between November 2026 and January 2027

5pm on Friday 16th October 2026 – for visits taking place between February and April 2027

5pm on Friday 15th January 2027 – for visits taking place between May and July 2027

5pm on Friday 16th April 2027 – for visits taking place between August and October 2027

Research Showcase

IAS Research Summits are week-long events bringing leading international scholars – academics, policy-makers, artists, activists and/or public intellectuals – to the University to work with Loughborough colleagues in setting ambitious and innovative research agendas for the future.

IAS Research Summits are focused on a theme, topic or idea that is timely, compelling, and potentially transformative. The theme should demonstrate a level of thought leadership that cuts across disciplines, enabling research activity that creates connections between the arts, humanities, social sciences and STEM subjects.

Future Research Summit submission deadlines:

5pm on Friday 9th January 2026 for Research Summits held between March 2026 – July 2026

5pm on Friday 10th July 2026 for Research Summits held between September 2026 – January 2027

Residential Fellowships

IAS Residential Fellowships are open to outstanding international researchers from across all disciplines and career stages who wish to pursue a month-long research residency within the scholarly community of Loughborough University and its Institute of Advanced Studies.

The Residential Fellowship programme complements the portfolio of opportunities offered by the Institute to bring leading international scholars to Loughborough University as IAS Fellows.

IAS Residential Fellowships are open to outstanding international researchers from across all disciplines and career stages who wish to pursue a month-long research residency within the scholarly community of Loughborough University and its Institute of Advanced Studies. We regret that this scheme is not open to applicants currently undertaking doctoral research. In addition to established academics, we welcome applications from scholars, artists, writers, public intellectuals

and policymakers outside the academy, whose research profiles resonate with areas of specialism at LU. The University is fully committed to equality, diversity and inclusion in all areas, and the IAS encourages applications from international scholars from any field whose work contributes to our active promotion of interdisciplinary knowledge, intercultural understanding and social responsibility.

Future Residential Fellowship submission deadlines –

5pm on Friday 15th May 2026 – For visits taking place between September 2026 and July 2027

5pm on Friday 21st May 2027 – For visits taking place between September 2027 and July 2028

5pm on Friday 19th May 2028 – For visits taking place between September 2028 and July 2029

Please get in touch with the IAS Team if you are interested in any of the opportunities, or have any ideas for IAS events – ias@lboro.ac.uk

Resources

Details of all Fellowship Opportunities, previous Fellows, upcoming events and general IAS information can be found on the main IAS website lboro.ac.uk/research/ias



Almost 400 IAS Fellow Seminars have been recorded, and are stored on our [IAS YouTube Channel](#)

Some of our most popular seminars can be viewed here:



Professor Danny Dorling and Professor Darren Smith: Loughborough Conversations



Dr Zahoor Hussain Farooqi: Smart polymer microgels and their hybrids for environmental and catalytic applications



Sophie Lewis in conversation with Victoria Browne and Jilly Boyce Kay: Enemy Feminisms



Cathy Pearl: How can conversation analysis be applied to conversation design?



Dr Stephen Cave: The Problem with Intelligence: Its Value-Laden History and the Future of AI

Institute of Advanced Studies
International House
Loughborough University
Leicestershire LE11 3TU UK

E: ias@lboro.ac.uk
W: lboro.ac.uk/research/ias

 [/lboroias](https://twitter.com/lboroias)

 [/loughborough-institute-of-advanced-studies/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/loughborough-institute-of-advanced-studies/)

 [/lboroias](https://www.instagram.com/lboroias)

 [/lboroias.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/lboroias.bsky.social)

 [/loughboroughinstituteofadv9803](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-loughboroughinstituteofadv9803)



Apple



Spotify



Amazon



Podbean