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Economics Department and
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Introduction

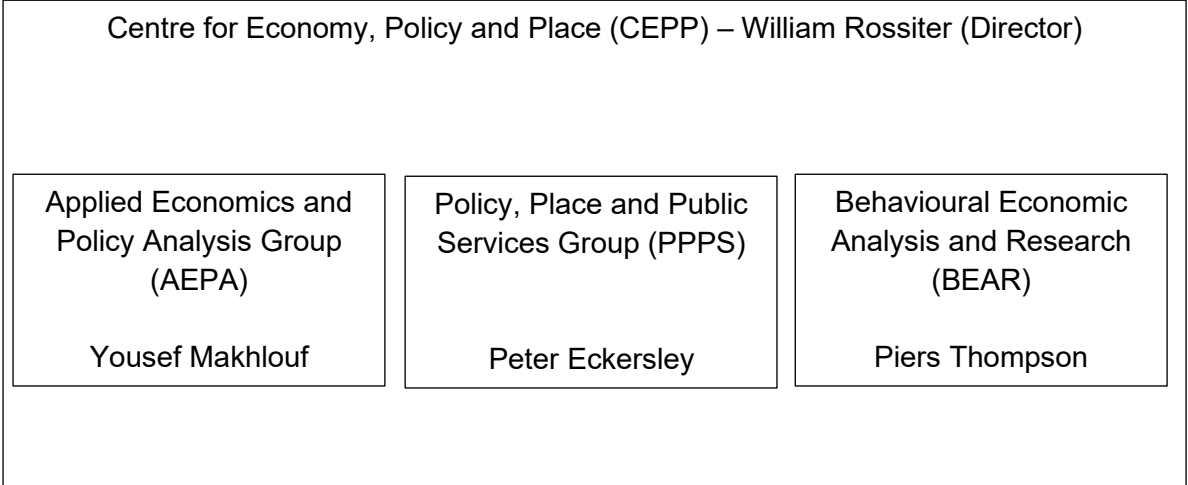
This report summarises the research activities undertaken by the [Economics Department](#) and the [Centre for Economy, Policy and Place \(CEPP\)](#) during the academic year 2025/26. Although there is a high level of crossover between the membership of CEPP and the Economics Department, some members of the department have their primary homes in other research centres, and CEPP is multidisciplinary with members being drawn from other departments to cross fertilise the research. Acknowledging this cross fertilisation of ideas and creativity the report therefore includes outputs from all members of the Economics Department regardless of primary research centre, and all outputs from members of CEPP regardless of their academic department. We also regard our PhD students as core members of our research community and therefore acknowledge their membership and celebrate their research outputs as fully as those of permanent staff members.

The report highlights achievements across peer-reviewed journal outputs, books and book chapters, research grant capture, consultancy and knowledge exchange activity, esteem indicators, conference engagement, research events, impact activity, and doctoral student progress. With Nottingham Business School's (NBS) and Nottingham Trent University's (NTU) focus on engagement and positive impact on business and wider society we acknowledge all types of research output from traditional academic outputs, such as journal articles, to more practice and pedagogical focused outputs.

The range of activities recorded in this report demonstrates the breadth, relevance and growing influence of work across the Department and CEPP and reflects an active and engaged research community. Broader researcher development activities have included workshops on contract research by CEPP, while the Economics Department runs both an external speakers and internal research workshop series. The Economics Department is also host to [Economic Issues](#), a peer reviewed journal which published its first article 40 years ago under its former name.

Particular developments this year saw the creation of the [Economics Research LinkedIn page](#) where updates on achievements and successes could be shared more widely and quickly. In 2025/26 from a standing start the page now has 141 followers and achieved nearly 13,000 impressions.

Looking ahead to the next academic year, the [Behavioural Economics Analysis and Research \(BEAR\)](#) group will become one of the strands within CEPP. The structure of CEPP in 2026/27 will be as depicted below although we don't perceive any differences in the way CEPP or the Economics Department will operate given the existing links both within and beyond the centre and department:



The Economics Department and CEPP look forward to building on the achievements of 2025/26 through continued research activity, collaboration, external engagement and impact development.

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1. Research Publications and Outputs

In 2025/26 affiliated members of the Economics Department and CEPP published a total of 29 papers in peer reviewed journal articles, as well as outputs in other professional outlets. The diversity of research produced by colleagues mean that many outlets are not included in journal ranking lists such as the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS) Academic Journal Guide (AJG) or the Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) Journal Quality List. Rather they are published where they have the greatest chance of reaching their intended audience and having positive impact. Nevertheless, of those included on the AJG and ABDC 3 are in journals classed as either 4 on the AJG or A* for the ABDC. A further 11 are in journals classed as either 3 on the AJG or A on the ABDC.

A further 7 books and book chapters were also published as well as a number of reports for various bodies or wider dissemination of research findings.

A few particular highlights are 2 papers published with Doctoral Students (Gideon et al., 2026; and Rotinwa-Oseni et al., 2026), and a further paper derived from an alumni's research project (Laycock et al., 2026). These highlight the development of new research talent within the Economics Department and CEPP.

2.1 Papers Published (and confirmed forthcoming)

Ackrill, R., Dixon, L., Chunping, L. and Thompson, P. 2025. Editorial: The benefits and challenges to academic publishing in a world of artificial intelligence. *Economic Issues*, 30 (2), 1-18. (AJG 1; ABDC B). https://www.economicissues.org.uk/Files/2025/EI_Autumn2025_ackrill.pdf

Akpo, J. E., Murphy, C., Gardier, D., **Ebireri, J. E.**, Gaillard, T., Bilello, L. A. and Webb, F. J. 2025. Variations in interest to participate in health research: Insights from the Florida Statewide Registry for Aging Studies (FSRAS). *Journal of Medicine, Surgery, and Public Health*, 7, 100211. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.glmedi.2025.100211>

Bakas, D., Konstantakopoulou, I. and Triantafyllou, A. 2026. The tourism-led economic growth hypothesis in the euro area: Do asymmetries and structural breaks matter? *International Journal of Tourism Research*, 28 (2), e70304. (AJG 2, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1002/jtr.70304>

Baldwin, K. 2026. Revisiting Lerner: Market power in a value-based framework. *Finance Research Letters*, 98, 109868. (AJG 2, ABDC A). [https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S1544-6123\(26\)00398-3](https://authors.elsevier.com/sd/article/S1544-6123(26)00398-3)

Baldwin, K. and Alhalboni, M. 2025. Cash out or carry on: When bank runs build resilience. *Economics Letters*, 256, 112581. (AJG 3, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2025.112581>

Bloxham, A., **Newham, T.**, Ryding, C. and Hadlington, L. 2026. Student perspectives on GenAI: Usage, attitudes, and academic integrity in psychology education. *Applied AI Letters*, 7 (2), e70025. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ail2.70025>

Bulkeley, H., Schoenefeld, J. J., Zeigermann, U., **Eckersley, P.**, Haupt, W., Kochskämper, E., Otto, A., Papin, M. and Zengerling, C. 2026. Towards a research and policy agenda for climate action in smaller municipalities and rural regions. *npj Climate Action*. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s44168-026-00367-1>

Chmura, T., Nguyen, K. and **Biermann, F. M.** 2026. Evolutionarily optimal risk aversion. *Risk Analysis*, 46 (5), e70250. (AJG 4). <https://doi.org/10.1111/risa.70250>

Derkenbaeva, E., Yoo, H. K., Hofstede, G. J., Galanakis, K., and **Ackrill, R.** 2026. Europeanisation and cultural variation in policy-making: The case of the EU positive energy districts initiative. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 64 (2), 762-786. (AJG 3, ABDC B). <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13769>

Dom, B. K., Lino, A. F. and Steccolini, I. 2025. Democratizing local governments' accounts: embracing a pluralistic approach. *Public Money and Management*. (AJG 2, ABDC B). <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540962.2025.2574488>

Dom, B. K., **Murphy, P.**, **Jones, M.** and **Collins, A.** 2026. Navigating financial distress and perceived vulnerability to build (financial) resilience during austerity: An exploratory study on the responses to shocks in local government. *Public Management Review*. (AJG 4, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719037.2026.2644629>

Eckersley, P. and **Dom, B. K.** 2026. Independence and dependence in central-local relations: multilevel governance and state capacity in the UK since the 1970s. *Public Money & Management*. (AJG 2, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540962.2026.2651719>.

Frost, D. and **Ackrill, R.** 2025. The multiple dimensions of curriculum mapping: designing a comprehensive outcomes-based framework. *London Review of Education* 23 (1), 17. <https://doi.org/10.14324/LRE.23.1.17>

Gideon, H. C., De Avillez, M. M., **Thompson, P.** and Zhao, Y. 2026. Business growth aspirations of married women entrepreneurs in Northern Nigeria-Kaduna: The role of culture- religion, gender norms, and informal institutions. *International Journal of Entrepreneurial Behavior and Research*, 32 (7), 1690–1715. (AJG 3; ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJEBR-05-2025-0741>

Huggins, R. **Dixon, L.** and **Thompson, P.** 2025. The behavioural-institutional dimensions of regional development: values, personality psychology and culture. *European Planning Studies*, 33 (12), 2207-2235. (AJG 2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/09654313.2025.2552435>

Jiefei, W., **Collins, A.**, Hanwen, X. and Shujie, Y. 2026. Work effort and subjective well-being of Chinese citizens: Social and individual utility mechanisms. *Economic Analysis and Policy*, 91, 922-937. (AJG 1, ABDC B). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eap.2026.03.042>

Laycock, S., **Stack, M.** and **Rossiter, W.** 2026. Regional development through freeports: An evaluation of the local employment effects of the East Midlands Freeport. *Local Economy*, 40 (3), 308-333. (AJG 2, ABDC C). <https://doi.org/10.1177/02690942261431746>

Lim, K. Y., **Liu, C.** and **Tan, L.** 2025. Loan loss provision, unsecured-collateralized loan choice and macro-stability in China. *B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, 25 (2), 847-884. (AJG 2, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1515/bejm-2025-0101>

Liu-Smith, Y. L., Candon, D., Logue, C., Murphy, P., MacLean, J. and Smith, W. 2025. New development: Too many absences—An empirical study of children missing from education in Nottingham. *Public Money & Management*. (AJG 2, ABDC B). <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540962.2025.2538207>

Megaritis, A., **Bakas, D.**, Bermpei, T., and Triantafyllou, A. 2026. Term spread volatility as a leading indicator of economic activity. *Journal of Forecasting*, 45 (5), 2332-2354. (AJG 2, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1002/for.70132>

Mullings, R. 2025. Kryptonite for cryptocurrencies? What are the effects of regulatory controls on Bitcoin returns and volatility? *International Journal of Finance & Economics*, 31 (3), 3905-3920. (AJG 3, ABDC B). <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijfe.70126>

Otto, A., Haupt, W., **Eckersley, P.**, Kern, K. and Thieken, A. Influence of multilevel and polycentric governance structures on climate change mitigation and adaptation in 209 German municipalities. *Cities*, 178, 107330. (AJG 2). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cities.2026.107330>

Palermo, O., **McCann, M.** and Wreaves, P. 2026. Countering crypto hype with influencer literacy. *AACSB Insights*. <https://www.aacsb.edu/insights/articles/2026/05/countering-crypto-hype-with-influencer-literacy>

Pietrapertosa, F., Reckien, D., Treville, A., Viguié, V., Salvia, M., Santopietro, L., Buzási, A., **Eckersley, P.**, et al., 2026. Unveiling patterns in the quality and consistency of climate adaptation plans of the Global Covenant of Mayors. *npj Urban Sustainability*, 6, 92. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s42949-026-00390-5>.

Raiden, A., Goumaa, R. and Mazhar, M. U., 2025. Embedding ethics, responsibility and sustainability in the curriculum within a masters in management programme. *International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSHE-07-2024-0441>

Reiss, E. L. K., Gonzalez, C. L. C., Kaasila-Pakanen, A.-L., Quental, C. M., Mandalaki, E., Gao, G., Pullen, A., Vera-Colina, M. A., **Arntsen, A.**, et al. 2026. Multilingual un/learning for decolonizing management and organization studies research and education. *Management Learning*. (AJG 3, ABDC A). <https://doi.org/10.1177/135050762614501>

Rotinwa-Oseni, B., Chmura, T., Orlandi, L. and Dixon, L. 2026. The dynamics of anti-corruption: a multi-level framework for intervention design. 22, e26. (AJG 3, ABDC B). <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1744137426100642>

Sharimakin, A. and Adetutu, M. O. 2026. Asymmetric fuel demand in the UK industrial sectors, 161, 109504. (AJG 3, ABDC A*). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.eneco.2026.109504>

Tsiligkiris, V., **Vishwanath, K.**, and Cheah, J. E. T. 2026. A model to evaluate the financial and operational risk of the UK universities. *Higher Education Quarterly*, 80 (1), e70094. (AJG 2, ABDC C). <https://doi.org/10.1111/hequ.70094>

1.2 Books and Book Chapters (Accepted)

Arntsen, A., 2025. Climate justice, decolonization, and decarbonization. In A. Bernasek and L. Chester (eds.), *The Elgar Companion to Women and Heterodox Economics*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 366-380. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781035329311.00037>

Dom, B. K., Lino, A. F. and Steccolini, I. 2026. Rethinking Local Government Accountability: Towards A Pluralistic Approach, In Y. Marique and E. Vaccari (eds.) *Local Government and the Territorial Constitution: Social Justice in UK Towns and Cities.*, Bristol: Bristol University Press.

Dom, B. K., de Azevedo, R. R. and Sekishita, H. forthcoming. Comparative Perspectives on Local Government Financial Statements in Brazil, Japan, and the United Kingdom, In M. Quinn, E. Stewart and J. Bertz (eds.), *Local Government Accounting History*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Eckersley, P. 2026. Multilevel Governance, Polycentricity, Power, and European Union Environmental Policy. In A. R. Zito and E. Domorenok (eds.), *Handbook of European Union Environmental Policy*, Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 187-200. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111321523-016>

Haupt, W., **Eckersley, P.** and Kern, K. 2026. *Deutsche Städte im Klimawandel: Herausforderungen für Politik, Verwaltung und Gesellschaft.* Baden-Baden: Nomos. <https://www.doi.org/10.5771/9783748956006>

Lakoma, K. 2026. *The New Dynamics of Accountability in Fire and Rescue Services*, Leeds: Emerald.

Rossiter, W., Smith, D. J. and Kaur, N. 2026. Partition, Policy and Migration: Rural Entrepreneurship and the Development of Sports Goods Clusters in Northern India. In R. Smith and G. McElwee (eds.), *De Gruyter Handbook of Rural Entrepreneurship in Developing Economies*, Berlin: De Gruyter, pp. 217-234. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110755077-012>

1.3 Reports

Katarzyna Lakoma and **Yu-Ling Liu-Smith** have submitted a draft of their report “Evaluation of the Risk Based Inspection Programme at Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services” to Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS).

Alongside Liam Clegg at the University of York, **Peter Eckersley** published a report, “Accelerating Local Climate Action, for the community interest organisation Climate Emergency UK”. The report identifies the institutional and contextual factors that have contributed towards net zero actions in councils across the UK, and it was launched at a high-profile event in London on 18 March.

Peter Murphy, Peter Eckersley, Bernard Kofi Dom and **Katarzyna Lakoma** submitted written evidence in June 2026 to the House of Lords, Economic Affairs Committee investigating Fiscal Devolution in England.

Peter Murphy, Katarzyna Lakoma and **Bernard Kofi Dom. 2025** Response to the Welsh Governments' consultation on the reform of fire and rescue authorities in Wales 2025.

Peter Murphy, Katarzyna Lakoma and **Bernard Kofi Dom** submitted written evidence in June 2026 to the House of Commons Lords, Welsh Affairs Committee investigating The Devolution of Policing.

Pass, S., Court-Smith, J., Clarke, N., MacLeod, D., Liu-Smith, Y-L. and **Popescu, S., (2026).** Productivity starts with people: Key findings from the 2026 Engage for Success Annual Survey. London: Engage for Success.

2. Funding

The Economics Department and CEPP members have been successful in accessing funding from a variety of sources to support both academic focused research and broader engagement activities.

The **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** awarded funding to **Emmanuel Amissah** for the project titled "Impact of CCTV Systems on Mobile Money Agency Business: Experimental Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial (RCT) in peri-urban Ghana." (award amount: \$70,341).

Will Rossiter has been successful as part of a team led by **Andy Newton** in Social Sciences with a bid for the IKEP Place Based Policy Accelerator fund 2026. This work seeks to integrate a range of connected research specialisms across NTU, linked to the broader concept of 'place-based approaches for inclusive social harm reduction'. The three themes are (i) Safer places and resilient communities (ii) Trust, legitimacy, and effective public services, and (iii) Inclusive place-based growth.

Funding of £10,000 has been obtained from the **Small IAA Fund** to support the development of the Financial Resilience Toolkit by **Bernard Kofi Dom**, together with Prof. Iris Saliterer (University of Freiburg, Germany), Prof. Ileana Steccolini (University of Essex and University of Bologna), Dr. Andre Lino (University of Essex), and Mr. Bruno Leite (IT Developer, USA). The international team is developing a beta version of the toolkit, with the funding enabling the addition of more features for enhanced functionality.

Funding for two **Collaboratory research placement projects** have been awarded to **Will Rossiter**. The first will develop a typology of community hubs (working with colleagues in social sciences). The second is a collaboration with colleagues at University of Nottingham, University of Derby and the Nottingham Civic Exchange that will analyse and map employment quality across the EMCCA area.

£20,000 of funding has been secured from the **East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA)** by CEPP to fund a project looking at health and economic inactivity. This project is being delivered through the EM Insights initiative with the University of Nottingham and the University of Derby, both of which have received equivalent funding. **Andrew Leyshon** is leading this supported by **Will Rossiter** and Rich Pickford (NCE).

The **Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)** has commissioned **Will Rossiter** to provide mentoring support to a member of the senior leadership team. This contract commences in July 2026 and will focus on performance metrics, data and insights. NBS Commercial Team has also bid to NFRS to deliver a range of CPD and consultancy support during 2027.

3. Research Environment and External Influence

Ani Raiden presented the paper “Inspiring sustainable process innovation with Tier 2 and 3 Subcontractors”, co-authored with Manu, E., at the **41st Annual Association of Researchers in Construction Management (ARCOM) Conference** in Dundee, UK, held from 1-3 September 2025. The paper appears in the conference proceedings.

Alan Collins and Stephen Drinkwater’s paper “Censorship, Control of Cultural and Media Consumption and the Demand for Freedom of Expression” has been accepted at the **12th European Workshop on Applied Cultural Economics**, in Porto, Portugal, 9-11 September.

On 25 September, **Shang Jiang** and **Karan Vishwanath** were invited as keynote speakers and consultants at the **MoSMoP (More Sustainable, More Profitable Businesses) Symposium**, led by CBIT. They delivered a talk titled “Driving Business Value through ESG: Compliance, Challenges, and Practical Insights”. The event, designed for SMEs, provided a platform to exchange practical tools, share real-world business solutions, and engage in collaborative dialogue to co-create actionable approaches with like-minded business leaders.

Bernard Kofi Dom helped the executive committee to organise its **Public Service Accounting and Accountability Group (PSAAG) Biennial Early Career Researcher (ECR) Colloquium** at the University of Essex in Colchester, UK on 5/6 November. An important part of the morning was a dedicated session with PhD candidates. Each of the 14 candidates had one-on-one discussions about their research projects. These sessions aimed to offer personalised, constructive feedback and encourage intellectual exchange. The feedback was well received, with several candidates noting that the insights gained would greatly influence the direction and refinement of their doctoral work.

As part of her role in the **European Work-Time Network**, **Alexandra Arntsen** co-organised a successful event at the **European Parliament** in Brussels on 20 November. The event, titled “Working Time Reduction in Europe: Policies, Practices and Perspectives,” was held together with the Greens/EFA and The Left in the European Parliament and brought together researchers, policymakers, and trade union representatives from across Europe.

Peter Eckersley co-organised and chaired a hybrid seminar on “The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill - Possibilities and (Missed?) Opportunities” in London and on Zoom on 24 November. The event was hosted and funded by the **UK Political Studies Association (PSA)**, and run as part of his role as co-convenor of the PSA’s specialist group on Local Politics and Governance.

Alexandra Arntsen organised the launch event for the **East Midlands Network for Economics Education (EMNEE)** - a new collaborative initiative bringing together economics educators from across the region. The online session, held on the 26 November, was attended by colleagues from regional universities with an interest in economics education. It outlined opportunities for involvement in the Network, including future seminars, collaborative projects, and professional development. The event featured two keynote presentations on economics pedagogy: **Alexandra Arntsen** spoke on “An exploration of tools to Decarbonize and Decolonise the Economics Curriculum”, and Dr Christopher Wilson (Loughborough University) presented “Using an Interactive Classroom Game to Improve the

Teaching of Mixed Strategies” (with Matt Olczak). More details are available on the webpage (<https://economicsnetwork.ac.uk/events/emnee>), where people can also sign up to the mailing list.

Alexandra Arntsen contributed an article, “Working time tendencies across Europe. Advancing local economies through working time reduction”, co-authored with Tatiana Pignon, to the Local and Regional Time Agenda ‘Towards a More Rational and Sustainable Working Time’. This contribution also included a keynote presentation at the **Local and Regional Time Agenda 5** event on 11 December. The report is available at: <https://timeuse.barcelona/towards-rational-sustainable-working-time/>

Ani Raiden delivered a keynote on 16 December 2025 titled “Co-Creation as a Framework for Social Value in Smart Villages - Critical Reflections on the Approach, Challenges and Opportunities” at the **8th International Conference on Smart Villages and Rural Development (COSVARD)**. Hybrid: SASTRA Deemed University, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu, India, and online.

Alexandra Arntsen organised a **Purple Wednesday for Sustainable Futures** titled “Playful Pedagogies in Business Education” on 17 December. The event was well attended, with Alexandra introducing the topic of Playful Learning and Sustainability, as well as giving an overview of the Conference of the Parties (COP) Negotiation game she has created with colleagues across NTU. **Shaun Gordon** was also invited to the event and spoke about his work with sustainability in the Creative Connections game.

Ani Raiden chaired a hybrid symposium on 17 December 2025, organised in collaboration with colleagues from Australia, titled “Joint Symposium on Construction in Developing Countries (W107) and Social Value in the Built Environment (TG127),” hosted by the **International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction (CIB)**, and delivered online.

Katarzyna Lakoma and **Peter Murphy** are part of the team organising an Emergency Services Panel for the **International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) conference** in Perth, Western Australia in April 2026. They are currently reviewing abstracts submitted to the panel.

Katarzyna Lakoma and **Peter Murphy** (together with Dr Lucia Velotti of JJ College New York), are editing a Special Issue of the **International Journal of Emergency Services**, based on the submissions to the **Emergency Services Panel of the International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) conference** in Bologna, Italy in April 2025. It is due for publication as Issue 2 in early 2026.

Bernard Kofi Dom has been appointed a member of the **Organising Committee for the Public Service Accounting and Accountability Group (PSAAG) - Accounting and Accountability SIG** - Panel 1 at the 2026 International Research Society for Public Management (IRSPM) Annual Conference 2026 in Perth, Australia. It is unfortunate that Bernard Kofi Dom will not be able to attend the conference itself, but he is playing a role as a member of the Organising Committee to ensure that the Panel runs smoothly in April 2026. He has reviewed three submissions for the panel.

Bernard Kofi Dom with two associate professors - Dr. Ricardo Rocha de Azevedo (School of Economics, Business Administration and Accounting at Ribeirão Preto, University of Sao Paulo, Brazil), and Dr. Hiroki Sekishita (Faculty of Economics, Wakayama University, Japan) had their abstract on "Balancing the Books or the System? Unpacking vertical governance reforms for local governments in Brazil, Japan, and the UK" for consideration to Panel 01: **Accounting and Accountability SIG of the IRSPM Annual Conference 2026** in Perth, Australia.

Peter Eckersley was invited to participate in a seminar, “Commons for the (Not) Gentle World: Institutions, Cooperation and the Shifting Political Landscape”, organised by the **Resource Economics Group at the Humboldt University** in Berlin, 17-18 March 2026. He presented a research paper and participated in a roundtable on “Changing players, changing rules, changing games: How resilient are our institutions?”

Alexandra Arntsen chaired the **East Midlands Network for Economics Education (EMNEE)** Spring Webinar on the 18 March where colleagues from University of Nottingham and University of Derby shared their insights of economics teaching and scholarship activities in East Midlands.

Peter Eckersley attended the **UK Political Studies Association 76th annual conference**, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, 30 March-1 April 2026, at which he chaired two panels and a roundtable, and also presented two research papers: “Multilevel governance, polycentricity, power, and European Union environmental policy”, and “Understanding the power of place in local climate policymaking”.

Together with Marianna Poberezhskaya in Social Sciences, **Peter Eckersley** launched a working group on Climate Change research for NTU academics. The group held its first online event in February, which attracted staff from across the university, and is organising an in-person event on 11 June at the Brackenhurst campus.

Peter Eckersley gave an invited talk to staff and students at the **Humboldt University** in Berlin about his new co-authored monograph, “German cities in a changing climate: challenges for politics, administration and society”.

Peter Eckersley chaired a roundtable on “English devolution and the future of subnational government”, at the **UK Political Studies Association annual conference**. The roundtable was filmed by the Academy of Social Sciences and key snippets will be uploaded to its website and disseminated on social media over the coming weeks, as part of the Academy’s current focus on devolved governance in the UK.

4. Research Impact Beyond Academia

The members of the Economics Department and CEPP have throughout 2025/26 engaged with a wide range of stakeholders, ranging from the local to the national. Through activities such as, attendance at events, participation in policy roundtables, and delivery of contract research they have been able to draw upon their research expertise to influence policy and practice. This section outlines a number of examples of this type of activity, but there is also on-going engagement with partners such as the **East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA)** alongside the other universities in the area being led by **Will Rossiter** and the CEPP team.

Peter Murphy and **Katarzyna Lakoma** published their insights in: Murphy, P. and Lakoma, K., 2025. What is happening to Local Public Audit in England? Policy Briefing September 2025. NTU.

Peter Murphy and **Katarzyna Lakoma** had two articles published in the professional press following their Policy Briefing and press release relating to “What is happening to Local Public Audit in England?”

- “Keeping local audit on the agenda” for the **Local Gov Network** and
- “Local Public Audit: An essential building block for accountability” to **Public Sector Focus**.

These all contribute to the Local Government Impact Case Study and the Fire and Rescue Impact Case Study.

In response to the **Welsh Government’s** request **Peter Murphy**, **Katarzyna Lakoma** and **Bernard Kofi Dom** submitted “A response to the Welsh Governments’ consultation on the reform of fire and rescue authorities in Wales 2025”. This contributes to the Fire and Rescue Impact Case Study.

Martin Jones and **Bernard Kofi Dom** presented the Financial Resilience Toolkit to **Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue** at their HQ in October. They also delivered a session where members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) were encouraged to use the toolkit. The results sparked an interesting dialogue in the room, and they agreed it was a very useful tool for self-assessment. However, the SLT suggested it needed to be adapted or bespoke to fit their financial and policy frameworks.

Beeston and District Civic Society hosted a presentation by **Peter Murphy** on 7 January 2026 entitled “Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation”. This contributes to the Local Government Impact Case Study.

Katarzyna Lakoma and **Yu-Ling Liu-Smith** “Evaluation of the Risk Based Inspection Programme (RBIP) at Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Services” was reported to **Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority** in response to the ‘Area for Improvement’ (AFI) highlighted in the 2024 inspection of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) by **His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**. The Service addressed the AFI through peer-review and an independent evaluation which has been undertaken by Nottingham Business School to ensure objective assessment and assurance of the RBIP process. The findings detailed within the NTU evaluation report, directly respond to HMICFRS’s AFI statement and closure of the AFI was subsequently reported back to HMICFRS prior to the forthcoming inspection in 2026.

The **English Devolution and Community Empowerment Bill** received Royal Assent on 29 April 2026. The Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 establishes a new Local Public Audit system in England, centred on a new Local Audit Office to replace the post-2014 fragmented system deemed

unfit for purposes by key stakeholders. NBS researchers including **Peter Eckersley**, **Katarzyna Lakoma**, **Bernard Kofi Dom** and **Peter Murphy**, have campaigned and published extensively for this to happen since the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 brought the current system into place. The annual progress report on the Local Government Impact Case Study (Led by **Peter Eckersley**) and the Fire and Rescue Services Impact Case Study (Led by **Katarzyna Lakoma**) were submitted to the NBS Impact Champion (Maranda Ridgway) on 4 June 2026.

5. Esteem, Recognition and Influence

Peter Murphy, Katarzyna Lakoma and **Bernard Kofi Dom** hosted a small delegation led by Professor Toshi Ishihara from Kwansei Gakuin University Japan, to visit Akinari Takehisa a visiting research student to NTU undertaking research on directly elected mayors in Japan and the UK.

Bernard Kofi Dom was invited to act as a co-editor of a *Handbook on Accounting and Digitalisation*. He is co-editing the project with Prof. MariaFrancesca Sicilia (University of Bergamo, Italy), Associate Professor Deborah Agostino (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), Associate Professor Tarek Rana (RMIT University, Australia), and Assistant Professor Tobias Polzer (WU Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria).

At **Lund University** in Sweden at the end of October, **Peter Eckersley** was invited to participate in a roundtable “Evolving roles of local governments in times of transition”. The roundtable kicked off a two-day workshop for local government academics in Sweden, Germany and the UK, in which he also participated as a discussant.

From 12-15 November 2025, **Rob Ackrill** was in Vienna, serving on the International Jury for the “doc.funds” scheme of the **Austrian Science Fund**.

The Conversation published **Alan Collins’s** article “Why Grand Designs-style eco-homes aren’t a good blueprint for sustainable living”. You can read the full article here: <https://theconversation.com/why-grand-designs-style-eco-homes-arent-a-good-blueprint-for-sustainable-living-268751>

The Financial Times 'Big Read' included **Peter Eckersley’s** article, “The world is struggling to halt climate change. But can it adapt?”, which appeared at the beginning of November ahead of the **Conference of the Parties (COP) conference** in Brazil. The full article is available <https://www.ft.com/content/ca9895d-63b7-4410-969a-2cee05910213>

Yu-Ling Liu-Smith, David Candon, Catriona Logue, and **Peter Murphy** have been invited to update their empirical study of children missing from education (CME) in Nottingham with new data collected by **Nottingham City Council** in 2024 and 2025. They have also been invited to present the previous results of the project to a regional meeting of CME teams across the East Midlands.

EuroChoices has appointed **Rob Ackrill** as its new Editor in Chief. This is a peer-reviewed journal run jointly by the (UKs) **Agricultural Economics Society (AES)** and the **European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE)**. With both the AES and EAAE having their own scientific journals, EuroChoices occupies a unique space connecting academics with practitioners and policymakers. Despite being published for mixed audiences in full colour A4 format, it is a Q1 journal.

Rob Ackrill published the article “Pioneering human-centric sustainable tech must be central to the EU’s energy strategy” in **Open Access Government**, January 2026, 398-399. Available at: <https://misc.pagesuite.com/pdfdownload/4b3031b8-4ea1-4dc5-b784-b8a41a8f645c.pdf>

An invite-only seminar organised by the **British Academy**, together with think tank **Localis** asked **Peter Eckersley** to participate in the discussion on “How can place-sensitivity, collaborative leadership and community-centred approaches speed up local action on climate and nature?”

Katarzyna Lakoma has had her article “Shaping safer futures through Fire and Rescue reform in the UK” in the Showcasing Research Impact Success section of the NTU Research Newsletter March 2026.

Akinari Takehisa (Visiting Research Scholar from Okinawa University Japan) with Jason Lowther (Birmingham) has published a blog of his PhD findings at the Institute for local Government in Birmingham University entitled “Understanding Mayoral Accountability: Insights from Japan and the UK” available at Understanding Mayoral Accountability: Insights from Japan and the UK | INLOGOV Blog.

In March, **the Mansfield and Ashfield Chad** extensively quoted **Peter Murphy** in the article “More than 1,000 empty council homes across Nottinghamshire ‘symptoms of much bigger malaise’”.

In March the **LGIU Follower** article “Good governance matters more than money for council climate action” extensively quoted **Peter Eckersley’s** report (with Liam Clagg (York)) “Accelerating Local Climate Action”.

Peter Murphy has reviewed 2 large grants for ESRI and 11 journal articles for various journals.

His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Academic Advisory Group and the **Implementation Advisory Group of His Majesty’s Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (HMCLG)** invited **Peter Murphy** to participate in the discussion of the new Local Public Audit Regime anticipated in the **Devolution and Community Engagement Bill 2026**.

Public Administration (ABS4) has recognised **Peter Eckersley, Katarzyna Lakoma, Peter Murphy, Tom Caygill** and **Charlotte Pell’s** paper “Accountability as a function of power relationships in public governance networks” as among the top 10 most-cited, and the top 10 most-downloaded, papers published by in 2024.

6. Events

During the reporting period, the Department and CEPP hosted a series of events that supported research exchange and engagement across the academic community. These included internal seminars, where colleagues and doctoral students had the opportunity to share their work with the wider Department, and an external speaker series that brought invited speakers from a range of universities to present current research.

Internal seminars

Date	Presenter(s)	Presentation title
22 October 2025	Mohamed Jama (Doctoral student)	<i>Impact of Acquirer Development Status on Post-Acquisition Performance</i>
18 March 2026	Craig Bickerton, Tom Newham and Piers Thompson	<i>Anchored at the Crease: Positional Identity, Reference Dependence, and Batting Performance in England Men's Test Cricket</i>

External speaker series

Date	Speaker and institution	Presentation title
18 February 2026	Tessa Langley, University of Nottingham	<i>Nicotine and Tobacco Policy Research in the UK: A Snapshot of Recent Research and Reflections on Future Directions</i>
25 March 2026	Marija Vukotic, University of Warwick	<i>Innovation During Challenging Times: Patent-Based Innovation Shocks and Business Cycle Dynamics</i>
29 April 2026	Luca Zamboni, University of East Anglia	<i>COP Negotiations Game</i>
5 May 2026	Wei Cui, UCL	<i>Risk-taking with Financing Constraints</i>

In addition to the seminar series, the Department hosted a **Doctoral Candidate Poster Presentation Session** on **4 March**, providing an opportunity for doctoral researchers to present work at different stages of development and receive feedback from colleagues across the Department.

CEPP Invited Speakers and Development Sessions

CEPP organised an event on **15 January**, bringing together **Claire Ward**, Mayor of the East Midlands Combined County Authority, and **Aki Takehisa**, former Mayor of Setouchi City, Japan, for a **conversation on mayoral leadership**. The discussion explored devolution, fiscal autonomy, wellbeing, place-based identities and consensus-building in multi-level governance. Keynote insights were provided by Professor Anne Green (City-REDI, University of Birmingham), with opening remarks from Professor Dave Petley, Vice-Chancellor of Nottingham Trent University.

On **21 January 2026** CEPP, in partnership with the Centre for People, Work and Organisational Practice (CPWOP), delivered a workshop to raise awareness of opportunities to undertake contract research and build capacity to bid effectively. The session was facilitated by **Will Rossiter**, alongside **Steve Brown** and **Maranda Ridgeway** from CPWOP and NBS's Commercial Manager **Helen Whitehall**. The workshop also considered how contract research may be converted into scholarly outputs.

7. PhD Success and Postgraduate Research students

The reporting period included several PhD successes.

Congratulations to **Himi Comfort Gideon** and **Victoria Olabisi Ileola-Gold**, who both had their PhDs conferred in October and attended the winter graduation ceremonies in December 2025.

Himi's thesis was titled 'The Influence of Culture on the Business Growth Ambitions of Married Women Entrepreneurs in Kaduna State, Nigeria', she was examined by Dr Samuel Osei-Nimo (internal) and Dr Noor Muhammad (external - Huddersfield University). Her supervisory team was Maria De Avillez (Co-S), Piers Thompson (DoS) and Yuxi Zhao (Co-S).

Victoria's thesis was titled 'Aggregated and Sectoral Analysis of FDI Determinants in Africa: The Role of Infrastructure, Financial Development, and Formal and Informal Institutions', she was examined by Dr Emmanuel Ammissah (internal examiner) and Dr Karen Jackson (external - University of Westminster). Her supervisory team was Marie Stack (DoS) and Piers Thompson (Co-S).

Congratulations also to **Charlotte Pell**, who passed her viva in January 2026 and graduated at the NTU graduation ceremony on 23 July 2026. Her PhD thesis is entitled 'The Impact of Central Government Control on the Use of Data and Public Service Motivation: The Case of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service'. Charlotte was supervised by Peter Eckersley, Peter Murphy and Rob Wilson, Manchester Metropolitan University.

Current Postgraduate Research students and progress

Alongside PhD successes, the Department and CEPP continue to support an active community of current postgraduate research students. Their projects reflect the breadth of research activity across the Economics Department and CEPP, including work on ESG, AI, inclusive growth, M&A and comparative local governance.

Kelsey Francis is completing a part-time PhD in ESG and Sustainable Finance. Kelsey's thesis is split into three research questions: mapping the market for ESG products and services, identifying whether market failures exist within the space and, if so, finding potential solutions to them.

Anisah Hussain, Collaboratory PhD student researching "Developing community led approaches to inclusive growth" successfully passed her year 1 review at the University of Nottingham.

Mohamed Jama's research examines the performance of cross-border mergers and acquisitions (M&As), focusing on how the acquirer's country of origin and development status shape post-acquisition outcomes.

Salem Mohamed Abdul Naamat successfully completed project approval for his PhD with the working title 'Understanding ESG Value: How ESG Rating Divergence Influences Firm Financial Performance and Affects Investment Decision-Making'.

Akinari Takehisa (Visiting Research Scholar from Okinawa University Japan) is undertaking research on directly elected mayors in Japan and the UK. He has completed UK data collection and returned to Japan to write up his findings.

Hauwa Abdulmalik Yusuf is undertaking a doctoral project titled “Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Learning and Teaching Practices in Higher Education: Behavioural Dynamics, Perceptions, and Strategic Adaptations.”

8. Department of Economics and CEPP Staff

In the 2025/26 academic year, there were 55 current/former staff and visiting fellows affiliated with either the Economics Department or CEPP. A majority of these are research active or supporting research through supervision of students to undertake research at various levels of study. We also had 19 PhD students affiliated with the Economics Department and CEPP.

Staff Member	Position	ORCID
Ackrill, Robert	Professor Emeritus	0000-0002-0739-1812
Arntsen, Alexandra	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-5460-848X
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Bickerton, Craig	Senior Lecturer	0000-0003-4942-3453
Biermann, Florian	Senior Lecturer	0000-0003-2594-7551
Candon, David	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-6395-8828
Castillo, Geoffrey	Senior Research Fellow	0000-0002-1144-1704
Cenesiz, Alper	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-3889-4180
Chmura, Thorsten	Professor	0000-0001-7476-2030
Chung, Hoi	Senior Lecturer	0000-0003-1566-550X
Clovis, Joel	Senior Lecturer	000-0001-7390-9117
Collins, Alan	Professor Emeritus	000-0001-9805-9091
Connelly, Mark	Principal Lecturer	
Dixon, Lerato	Senior Lecturer	0000-0001-6933-789X
Dom, Bernard	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-0889-2571
Ebiri, John	Senior Lecturer	
Eckersley, Peter	Associate Professor	0000-0001-9048-8529
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Gittins, Rebecca	Visiting Fellow	
Gordon, Shaun	Senior Lecturer	0000-0003-1387-3858
Gumus, Atila	Senior Lecturer	
Hardy, Becca	Senior Lecturer	0009-0001-5090-5612
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Hewitt, Michael	Senior Lecturer	
Jiang, Shang	Senior Lecturer	
Jones, Martin		

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Lalley, Christopher	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-7657-986X
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Liu-Smith, Yu-Ling	Senior Research Fellow	
Logue, Caitriona	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-1056-6345
Mahabir, Aruneema	Senior Lecturer	0000-0001-9867-2830
Murphy, Peter	Professor Emeritus	0000-0001-8459-4448
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McCann, Michael	Senior Lecturer	
Mullings, Robert	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-5569-9117
Newham, Tom	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-8349-5760
Nguyen, Thao	Senior Lecturer	
Orlandi, Ludovica	Senior Research Fellow	0000-0001-7909-0990
Owusu Ansah, Job	Senior Lecturer	0009-0003-5286-8784
Pass, Sarah		0000-0002-5062-9793
Rahman, Sabrin	Associate Lecturer	
Raiden, Ani	Professor	0000-0001-7176-1139
Rossiter, William	Professor – CEPP Director	0000-0002-2199-1136
Sharimakin, Akin	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-2088-3942
Stack, Marie	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-9213-7607
Tan, Linzhi	Senior Lecturer	0000-0001-6986-1923
Thompson, Piers	Head of Department	0000-0003-1961-7441
Wang, Yung-Lin	Senior Lecturer	
Whysall, Zara	Professor	0000-0001-5833-9486
Zemandl, Eva	Senior Lecturer	0000-0002-7017-1070

Doctoral Candidate	Topic	Supervisory Team
Abdulmalik Yusuf, Hauwa	Exploring the Impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on Learning and Teaching Practices in Higher Education: Behavioural Dynamics, Perceptions, and Strategic Adaptations	Wang, Yung-Lin
Adu-Anokye, Deborah	The effects of financial literacy and women empowerment on poverty alleviation in Ghana	Knight, Helen; Ebirebi, John
Dunn, Matthew	Innovation and Intrapreneurship in andragogy; how do we simultaneously maximise the impact for students, their employers, and the advancement of the discipline?	McDonald-Junor, Daniel; Thompson, Piers
Francis, Kelsey	A study of the market for ESG metrics	Hauck, Achim; Mccann, Michael
Gideon, Himi	The Influence of Culture on the Business Growth Ambitions of Married Women Entrepreneurs in Kaduna State, Nigeria.	Thompson, Piers; Yuxi, Zhao; De Avillez, Maria
Grantson, Samuel	Analysing the Influence of Personalised Financial Literacy on Gen-Z Evangelical Brand Affinity for a Financial Service Provider	Amissah, Emmanuel; Knight, Helen; Galanakis, Kostas (University of Dundee)
Hussain, Anisah	Developing community led approaches to inclusive growth	Rossiter, William
Ileola-Gold, Victoria Olabisi	Aggregated and Sectoral Analysis of the Determinants of Foreign Direct Investment in Africa: The Role of Infrastructure, Financial Development, and Formal and Informal Institutions.	Stack, Marie; Thompson, Piers
Jama, Mohamed Mohamud Hersi	Cross-Border Mergers and Acquisitions: Trends, Determinants, and Performance	Liu, Chunping; Hauck, Achim
Jemis Ranasinghalage, Suresh Ranasinghe	Economic Trauma, Systemic Economic Inequalities and Unrealised Economic Contributions: A Study of Female Asylum Seekers in Nottingham	Kahyalar, Neslihan; Elhinnawy, Hind; Braber, Natalie

Doctoral Candidate	Topic	Supervisory Team
Naamat, Salem Mohamed Abdulsala	Understanding ESG Value: How ESG Rating Divergence Influences Firm Financial Performance and Affects Investment Decision-Making	Jiang, Shang ; Thompson, Piers
Parekh, Jayna	The Role of Eco-Labels in the Route to Sustainable Consumption: An Investigation into Environmental Information in the UK Food Sector	Thompson, Piers ; Dixon, Lerato ; Arici, Elaine ; Stathopoulou, Eleni (University of Sheffield)
Pell, Charlotte	The Impact of Central Government Control on Data and Public Service Motivation: The Case of Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service	Eckersley, Peter ; Murphy, Peter
Rotinwa-Oseni, Balikees Oyinlomo	The Behavioural Drivers of Corruption in Public Procurement in Africa (A case study in Nigeria)	Chmura, Thorsten ; Dixon, Lerato ; Orlandi, Ludovica
Ryan-Prewett, Spencer	The role of emotional intelligence in business leadership: a student and practitioner perspective	Chmura, Thorsten ; Dixon, Lerato ; Orlandi, Ludovica
Selahmi, Basma	Fulling the Future or Fossi Lock-In? Econometric Tests of Natural Gas Infrastructure, Monetary Policy, and Social Drivers	Liu, Chunping ; Bakas, Dimitrios
Taylor, David Kojo	The impact of Fintech & Financial Literacy on Financial Inclusion in Sub-Saharan Africa	Makhlouf, Yousef ; Owusu Ansah, Job
Ucal, Lutfi	Co-designing economics and psychology informed interventions to support financial resilience in Nottingham communities facing Severe and Multiple Disadvantage	Castillo, Geoffrey ; Chmura, Thorsten ; Tickle, Anna (University of Nottingham); Foster, Taz (Framework)
Zhang, Shen	Stock Prices, the Real Economy and Monetary Policy in the UK	Cenesiz, Alper ; Bakas, Dimitrios

9. Research Contacts

If you would like further information on research activities in the Economics Department or CEPP, please contact:

Will Rossiter (william.rossiter@ntu.ac.uk) - Head of the Centre for Economy, Policy and Place,

Yousef Makhoulf (yousef.makhoulf@ntu.ac.uk) - Head of Applied Economics and Policy Analysis subgroup,

Ludovica Orlandi (ludovica.orlandi@ntu.ac.uk) - Economics Department research coordinator

Peter Eckersley (peter.eckersley@ntu.ac.uk) – Head of Policy, Place and Public Services Group (PPPS)

They will be happy to try and answer your queries.

Below is a list of those responsible for different research activities in our Research Centres, Economics Department and wider Business School:

Research Centre/Group and Economics Department Roles

Ludovica Orlandi (ludovica.orlandi@ntu.ac.uk)

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Shang Jiang (shang.jiang@ntu.ac.uk)

- Deputy Editor-in-Chief Economic Issues

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- Editor-in-Chief Economic Issues
- NBS Director of Doctoral Programmes

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- AEPA and Economics Department External Speakers Series Coordinator

Will Rossiter (william.rossiter@ntu.ac.uk)

- Head of the Centre for Economy, Policy and Place (CEPP)
- Head of the Economic Strategy Research Bureau

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Piers Thompson (piers.thompson@ntu.ac.uk)

- Head of Economics Department

Yung-Lin Wang (yung-lin.wang@ntu.ac.uk)

- AEPA and Economics Department Internal Research Workshop Coordinator

Nottingham Business School Doctoral Programmes

NBS PhD and DBA Programme (NBSPHDPprogramme@ntu.ac.uk)

Chunping Liu (chunping.liu@ntu.ac.uk)

- NBS Director of Doctoral Programmes