Coming up at the IF this spring
Curious how farming can be more sustainable? If there ever was, in Sigmund Freud’s view, a madman in the White House? Whether Leonardo da Vinci was right about how the heart works?

Meet our Student Ambassadors
Our three Student Ambassadors spread the word about the IF in Jesus College and beyond; now it’s time to hear from them! Learn more about our Student Ambassadors on pages 7 and 8.

Finding the answers that Alexa and ChatGPT can’t give us
In March, the IF hosted the second annual Leaders in Responsible AI Summit. The one-day workshop brought together global experts to consider the many ways in which AI is changing the world, and how we can make sure that those changes lead to a positive future for society.

Read more on pages 5 and 6.

Stay up to date with the IF by following us on LinkedIn and Twitter.
Global Sanctions and Russia:
Lessons for international business

What effect have Russia’s sanctions had on international business over the past two years? What keeps CEOs awake at night - and what should be keeping them awake?

This event is part of the TMT Lecture Series, a collaboration between The Moscow Times and top global universities to provide a platform for experts to discuss what is going on inside Russia following the full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The Madman in the White House

Disillusioned by President Woodrow Wilson’s handling of the Treaty of Versailles, US diplomat William C. Bullitt, with the help of Sigmund Freud, set out to write a psychological analysis of the president.

The original manuscript was considered lost or destroyed until 2014, when historian Patrick Weil happened upon it. Join Weil as, based on his reading of the original manuscript, he offers a major reassessment of Wilson and of 20th-century American diplomacy.

Designing a better urban future:
Integrating people, nature, and cities

Designers VenhoevenCS architecture+urbanism in Amsterdam are shaping a sustainable future through architecture. Their recent projects include a circular inclusive MicroCity stacked above a major transport hub, a nature-inclusive residential building, and the Aquatics Centre that will host this summer’s Games in Paris. Join founder Ton Venhoeven and partner architect Cécilia Gross to discuss their transformative approach to driving progress towards healthy urbanism.
“Six Inches of Soil” film screening

“Six Inches of Soil” tells the untold story of the UK’s regenerative and agroecology movement and its benefits to soil. The film follows three new farmers on the first year of their regenerative journey. They’re joined by other experts providing wisdom and solutions from a growing movement of people who are dedicated to changing the trajectory for food, farming, and the planet.

After the screening, the film’s director, Colin Ramsay, will be joined by a panel of experts for a Q&A.

Only yes means yes: Affirmative consent and the law

Despite UK law saying that both people need to give their consent to sex, the public isn’t always clear about what consent means. This murkiness shows up in court too, where the notion of implied consent – making an assumption based on someone’s behaviour – is accepted. Join us as barristers Stephanie Hayward and Dr Charlotte Proudman consider what requiring a clear “yes” to sex as the legal standard for consent might mean for survivors of sexual assault.

Labyrinth: The path less taken

Labyrinth is a multi-sensory, indoor, circular walk with a difference. It combines ancient reflective practice with contemporary interactive, business-focused exercises.

Reflect in a unique and dynamic way on the particular issues affecting you, as you seek to capitalise financially, corporately, socially, emotionally and spiritually in today’s ever-changing world. You will also have the opportunity to attend a talk on ‘Rising to the occasion of our humanity’ and take a tour of Jesus College led by IF Director Julian Huppert.
IF Retreat: A weekend in Jesus College

Save the date: 26 - 28 July, 2024

We are launching the first IF Retreat at Jesus College this July!

The Retreat will bring participants together for a weekend of lectures, personal reflection, and thought-provoking conversations in the beautiful Jesus College grounds.

Based on the excellent feedback we received from the survey sent out in late March, we are designing a schedule including talks by Cambridge academics, wellbeing activities, and social gatherings.

The Retreat is being co-facilitated by IF Associate Lee Chalmers and IF Deputy Director Dr Eleanor O’Gorman.

More details, including registration information, will be coming soon!

Sign up to be the first to hear when registration for the IF Retreat opens.

Meet Retreat co-designer Lee Chalmers

Lee is an Executive coach, group facilitator, therapist and academic researcher who works at the intersection of personal development, leadership and societal change. She is particularly interested in how leadership of the self impacts leadership of organisations and how this can impact society for the better.

As well as theory she is interested in practice, and in 2014, she founded Elect Her, a UK social enterprise to get more women elected into UK Councils and Parliaments by helping them explore their futures as leaders, legislators and champions of political governance. To date, Elect Her has supported several hundred women into elected roles.

Lee was appointed as an IF Visiting Scholar in 2022. She lives in Edinburgh with her whippet, Stella.
In the year since the first Summit, the landscape of generative AI has evolved quickly. As Mission Control CEO Ramsay Brown wrote in the Summit pre-reading: “It’s worth noting that at last year’s Summit, the best that Generative AI could do was Will Smith eating spaghetti that looked like nightmare fuel. 12 months later, we’re at SoRA (a new generative AI software by ChatGPT creators OpenAI)”.

The questions that the delegates considered at this year’s Summit reflected not just the progression of AI itself, but the changing global circumstances in which this technology is developing.

What are the potential benefits of AI? And how could we address some of the challenges that might arise from it?

“We can use AI to improve the world, or it could go wrong”, said IF Director Julian Huppert in his Portrait of AI Leadership, filmed at the 2023 Leaders in Responsible AI Summit. “I don’t think we yet know exactly what all the problems are, and until you have a good idea of what all the problems are, it’s very hard to know exactly how to fix them. So it will take a lot of conversations”.

Watch Julian’s Portrait in AI Leadership.
In the afternoon sessions, groups worked to put together a set of best-practice guidelines for how organisations can adapt to and utilise Responsible AI, drawing on the delegates’ varied backgrounds and areas of expertise.

Groups worked together to discuss specific questions relating to these two overall themes, rotating teams each session. At the end of each session, groups presented their findings to the room, opening up the discussion to all delegates.

Throughout the day, delegates continued their conversations informally over coffee breaks. Finally, after a day of thoughtful conversation and collaboration, delegates gathered to continue their discussion over drinks: Chat G&Ts and mAI tAI s.
This winter, the IF began piloting a new Student Ambassador scheme for Jesus College students. Student Ambassadors will help spread the word about the IF amongst students and discuss ideas for IF activities with the core team. In return, Ambassadors will receive training and experience in putting on events, with the potential opportunity to run an event of their own design from start to finish.

We asked our first cohort of Student Ambassadors - Rowan Lightfoot, Alexis Fradley, and Clare Aspray - about their experiences with the IF so far.

Rowan Lightfoot
m. 2023, Law

My first involvement with the IF was attending both a student and public event with Phillipe Sands KC. The student event especially was such a valuable opportunity to listen to and chat with an expert in the field which I wish to pursue in such an intimate setting. Phillipe spoke with candour, passion and knowledge, which already had me thinking about legal and geo-political issues within my first couple of weeks at University!

It is easy as a student to get bogged down in the content of your subject and your subject only. However, at Cambridge and university in general there are so many more ideas and experiences to explore. The IF is, I feel, the perfect way to expose yourself to new ideas and areas in an engaging, low-commitment way. The topical and varied events give students an opportunity to think differently, meet world-leading experts and learn in a more informal way.

After my ambassadorship, I will certainly look to continue to heed my above advice and attend a greater variety of events in areas that may unnerve me or not align exactly with my typical interests. I have found so far that attending such events opens ideas and triggers thoughts which never would have existed without listening to the various speakers, and continuing to engage with the IF will only further this.
I recently worked at Clare Chambers’ event about her new book, which was actually a bit scary because she’d been the one to interview me for the College! I really enjoyed it, because I was interested in what she had to say about masculinity; but I have genuinely enjoyed each event, because they are always so different, and about surprising and relevant things.

Becoming a Student Ambassador looked like a really fab opportunity to get more involved in the running of IF events, with the potential to run an event of your own. I’m not sure what I want to do after university and so this seemed like a great way to meet new people, organise, and plan things, which will all be useful skills. The IF offers such a diverse range of events, so I think it can help students expand their interests beyond just their degree into pressing political topics and current issues.
Never miss an event

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