

KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

At an Extraordinary Congregation
held on Wednesday 21 February 2024
at 14:00 in Keynes Hall and via Zoom.

Present (starred names attended on Zoom)

Dr Zoe Adams	Dr Katie Haworth*	Professor Geoff Moggridge*
Dr Tess Adkins*	Dr Kate Herrity	Dr Kamiar Mohaddes*
Professor Anna Alexandrova	Dr Myfanwy Hill	Dr Ken Moody
Professor Mike Bate	Dr David Hillman	Dr Basim Musallam*
Dr Giulia Boitani	Mr Reza Huseini	Professor Robin Osborne
Dr Shannon Bonke*	Professor Alice Hutchings*	Dr Sophie Pickford
Professor Matt Candea	Mr Daniel Hyde	Professor Mike Proctor
Dr Keith Carne	Professor Martin Hyland	Professor Surabhi Ranganathan*
Rev Dr Stephen Cherry	Ms Polly Ingham	Dr Angus Russell
Dr Ivan Collister	Mr Peter Jones	Dr Andjela Sarkovic
Dr James Dolan	Dr Phil Knox	Professor Jason Sharman
Professor Aytek Erdil*	Professor James Laidlaw	Dr James Taylor
Professor Elisa Faraglia*	Dr Zhuangnan Li*	Dr Gillian Tett
Professor Iain Fenlon	Mr Luca Limoncelli	Professor Caroline Van Eck
Dr Tim Flack	Professor Sarah Lummis*	Dr Rob Wallach
Professor Chryssi Giannitsarou*	Professor Nick Marston	Dr Dror Weil
Professor Simon Goldhill	Professor Jean Michel Massing*	Professor Darin Weinberg
Professor Ross Harrison	Professor Cam Middleton	Professor Godela Weiss-Sussex
Dr Tiffany Harte	Dr Fraz Mir*	Dr Tom White*
Mr Api Hasthanasombat	Dr Perveez Mody	Professor Nicolette Zeeman

23. Apologies

Dr Ronojoy Adhikari	Professor Lord Tony Giddens	Dame Judith Mayhew Jonas
Dr Sebastian Ahnert	Professor Ingo Gildenhard	Professor Dan McKenzie
Professor John Arnold	Professor Chris Gilligan CBE	Dr Jonah Miller

Professor Gareth Austin	Dr David Good	Dr Gabriela Montejo-Kovacevich
Dr Seda Basihos	Professor Gillian Griffiths	Dr Rory O'Bryen
Dr Francesco Bianchini	Professor Mark Gross	Professor Rosanna Omitowaju
Dr Marcus Böick	Mrs Lorraine Headen	Dr Tejas Parasher
Professor Richard Bourke	Professor John Henderson	Professor John Perry
Professor Angela Breitenbach	Dr Felipe Hernandez	Professor Chris Prendergast
Professor Jude Browne	Dr Stephen Hugh-Jones	Dr Ben Ravenhill
Professor Nick Bullock	Professor Dame Carrie Humphrey DBE	Professor Thomas Roulet
Dr Katie Campbell	Professor Herbert Huppert	Professor Bob Rowthorn
Dr Alexandra Clarà Saracho	Mr Phil Isaac	Professor Paul Ryan
Professor Francesco Colucci	Professor Ian James	Professor Hamid Sabourian
Dr Sarah Crisp	Professor Mark Johnson	Dr Mira Siegelberg
Dr Laura Davies	Dr Jerelle Joseph	Dr Mike Sonenscher
Professor Anne Davis	Dr Aileen Kelly	Dr Sharath Srinivasan
Professor Pete de Bolla	Professor Barry Keverne	Professor Gareth Stedman Jones
Professor John Dunn	Dr Patrycja Kozik	Professor Nick Tosca
Professor George Efstathiou	Dr Joanna Kusiak	Mr Jim Trevithick
Professor Brad Epps	Professor Richard Lambert	Dr Marco Tripodi
Dr Sebastian Eves-Van den Akker	Professor Charlie Loke	Professor Bert Vaux
Professor James Fawcett	Professor Alan Macfarlane	Professor Jamie Vicary
Professor Rob Foley	Dr Cicely Marshall	Professor John Young
Professor Matthew Gandy		
On Leave		
Dr Nick Atkins	Professor Caroline Goodson	Professor Chez Hall
Dr Mirjana Bozic	Dr Malar Jayanth	Professor Henning Grosse Ruse-Khan
Professor Richard Causton		

OPEN BUSINESS ONLY

24. Declarations of Interest

None.

Principal Business

25. Interview Format for the 2024-2025 Admissions Round

Having implemented Governing Body's chosen Interview Format for 2023–4, the Admissions Tutor returned to Governing Body to secure a vote on the format to be adopted for all future rounds.

The Provost thanked the Admissions Tutor for providing a comprehensive, data-rich paper.

The Admissions Tutor spoke briefly to the paper, noting that it showed there were pros and cons to all models. She highlighted that Council had been asked for feedback on the paper and the structure of the vote. Her aim had been to present the information to Governing Body as neutrally as possible.

The Admissions Tutor provided an update in relation to Admissions Forum discussions, and a paper circulated to the Forum the previous week. She emphasised that King's was not bound to follow the decision of other Colleges or the suggestions made in the paper. The paper had not been debated at Admissions Forum yet, and it was not clear which model other Colleges might adopt.

In response to a query, the Admissions Tutor clarified that special dispensations and adjustments would still be made where necessary if an all in-person model was chosen. Governing Body discussed whether these adjustments could be extended to international students who, for example, were subject to stringent visa requirements. Governing Body emphasised that, if a hybrid model was chosen, international students should be able to choose to come to King's for an in-person interview.

Members of Governing Body criticised the inter-Collegiate decision-making framework. The Cambridge Colleges, unlike the Oxford Colleges, had not taken a united approach to interview models.

KCSU's Vice President, Mr Limoncelli, relayed KCSU's concerns about the impact an all in-person model might have on UK students who live in poorly connected areas, and who (like international students) may struggle to travel to King's.

Governing Body discussed how interview format might influence potential applicants. The Admissions Tutor's data suggests last year's interview model did not distort application patterns, and that many applicants were not aware of the interview model used by King's before they applied.

Several members of Governing Body spoke in favour of in-person interviewing. They shared the view that in-person interviewing provided a better environment in which to engage with candidates. The Admissions Tutor had received feedback that indicated candidates also found an in-person experience valuable.

Governing Body raised some concerns about whether AI developments, such as ChatGPT, might enable candidates to exploit an online interview environment.

In response to comments about whether cost should be taken into account, the Admissions Tutor emphasised that she did not intend for the costings

presented in her paper to play a deciding role in Governing Body's decision. The information was provided so Governing Body has comprehensive information about the potential outcomes of each model.

The Senior Tutor explained that, after much deliberation, she had decided her preference was for in-person interviewing. Since Governing Body's last vote she had experienced interviewing both in-person and online, and felt it was hard to create the same interviewing experience across the two formats. Although not the main reason for her preference, she also shared concerns about how the use of AI in online interviews could develop.

Governing Body agreed:

- a) To commit, in principle, and indefinitely, to a model of in-person interviewing; and
- b) To adopt a model of in person interviewing whereby all candidates will be interviewed in person, regardless of whether or not they are resident/schooled overseas or in the UK

On the understanding that exceptions might have to be made for legal reasons associated with disability/health etc, and that the precise details of the model will be worked out in discussions between the Admissions Tutor and Admissions Team, College Officers, and other affected Departments.

26. Any Other Business

None.

The Congregation ended at 15:01.