Lecturers and tutors

Director and Tutor in Diplomatic Practice, Lecturer in Public International Law: Mrs Kate Jones

Kate Jones has been Director of the Diplomatic Studies Programme since 2015, and teaches all aspects of Diplomatic Practice. Kate is also a member of Oxford University’s Law Faculty, and conducts teaching and research in public international law and human rights law. Her publications focus on counter-terrorism, human rights and sanctions law.

Kate was formerly with the legal cadre of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. At the FCO she provided legal advice in London on a wide range of matters, served in Geneva as Legal Adviser to the United Kingdom’s Mission to the United Nations and in Strasbourg as the United Kingdom’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the Council of Europe. She originally qualified as a commercial litigation solicitor in the City of London, and after qualification spent several months as a judicial assistant in the Court of Appeal of England and Wales. She studied law at Oxford at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. She is a fellow of Kellogg College.

International Politics Lecturer, Research Advisor: Dr Vahid Nick Pay

Dr. Vahid Nick Pay is a lecturer in International Politics at the Diplomatic Service Programme and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Vahid’s initial education was in the field of Linguistics (BA and MA degrees), where he also taught courses in General Linguistics, Historical Linguistics and Discourse Analysis since 1998.

After some years of professional engagement with the British media outlet the BBC, he switched fields to Political Science, studying first at the University of London, Birkbeck (Master of Science in Political Theory) and then the University of Durham, UK (PhD in Political Science), where he examined the Republican political philosophy in particular in relation to other sources of sovereignty and legitimacy, notably religion.

He has held research and teaching positions in several countries such as Italy, Iraq, Iran, France, the UAE and the UK. He has extensively published on various social and political arguments for prominent public media and journals in Europe and the Middle East.

His recent book, entitled Republican Islam (London: I.B. Tauris 2016) is dedicated to a comparative study of the Republican political philosophy and the role of religion in particular the Islamic political theology.

His research interests include International Politics, Middle Eastern Politics, Political Islam and Republicanism.
Dr. Nikolaos (Nikos) Theodorakis is a Lecturer at the Oxford University Diplomatic Studies Programme, a Junior Research Fellow at Pembroke College, and a Fellow at Stanford Law School. His interests include international trade law and finance, public international law, and EU law. Nikos is also a practicing lawyer for an international law firm.

Prior to joining Oxford, Nikos taught and conducted research at the University of Cambridge, Harvard Law School, and Columbia Law School. He also gained professional experience at the U.S. Committee on Capital Markets Regulation, the Kluge Center at the U.S. Library of Congress and the UK Ministry of Justice.

Nikos has received awards from several bodies, including the State Council of the People’s Republic of China, ESRC, British Academy and Greek Parliament. He has served as a consultant for the OECD, UNICRI, and other international organisations. Nikos has been widely published and regularly receives invitations for public engagements, including guest lectures around the world, international symposia and TEDx conferences.