

CSaP Annual Conference and Reception 2025

Resilience in a changing world

24 June 2025

The Royal Society

09:30 REGISTRATION OPENS

10:00 WELCOME (Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre)**10:10 SESSION 1: Life sciences, healthcare and economic growth**

Chair: [Nicola Buckley](#), Centre for Science and Policy

- [Professor Lucy Chappell](#), Chief Scientific Adviser, Department of Health and Social Care
- [Lord James O'Shaughnessy](#), former Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Health (2016-2018)

11:15 BREAK

11:45 SESSION 2: Parallel seminars x 3**Seminar 1 (Kohn Centre): Pandemic emergencies**

Organised in collaboration with the [Centre for Pandemic Risk Management](#), this session brings together leading experts from academia and government to explore the future of pandemic risk management.

Chair [Rob Doubleday](#), Centre for Science and Policy

- [Professor Clare Bryant](#), Professor of Innate Immunity & Wellcome Trust Investigator, Department of Veterinary Medicine, University of Cambridge
- [Dr Lalitha Sundaram](#), Senior Research Associate, Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, University of Cambridge
- [Laurie Thraves](#), Head of National Situation Centre, Cabinet Office

Seminar 2 (Wolfson room 1): Critical minerals and net zero

This panel will explore the evolving critical minerals strategy and criticality assessment, the urgent resource needs of the Global South, and how big data can shape global supply chains. Organised in collaboration with [Cambridge Zero](#), this session will unpack the geopolitical, economic and environmental dimensions of securing the minerals essential for a net-zero future.

Chair: [Nicola Buckley](#), Centre for Science and Policy

- [Pierre Josso](#), Deputy Director, UK Critical Minerals Intelligence Centre
 - [Niva Thiruchelvam](#), Director, Hakluyt
 - [Dr Sam Stephenson](#), Research Associate, Resource Efficiency Collective, Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge
 - [Dr Mukesh Kumar](#), Associate Professor in Operations Management, Institute for Manufacturing, University of Cambridge
-

Seminar 3 (Wolfson room 2): Disinformation, security and democracy

This session will explore how disinformation shapes and is shaped by political and social developments. Panellists will bring their research, expertise and experience to bear on this pressing issue and its potential effects on security and democracy.

Chair: **Jill Rutter**, Senior Fellow, Institute for Government

- **Kevin Armstong**, Policy and External Relations Manager, Full Fact
- **Dr Jon Roozenbeek**, Affiliate Lecturer, Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge; Assistant Professor in Psychology, King's College London
- **Dr Ann Kristen Glenster**, Deputy Director, Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy, University of Cambridge

13:00 LUNCH & NETWORKING

An opportunity to connect with policy makers and academics in our network, with discussion tables hosted by:

CSaP: The Centre for Science and Policy team will be available to discuss opportunities for researchers and policy professionals to engage through our range of services: Policy Fellowships; Policy Workshops; Policy Internships; and Capability Building.

Overton: Overton connects research with public policy. Overton Index is the world's largest searchable database of policy documents, guidelines, and think tank outputs, tracking over 18 million publications from across the world. Our platform is designed to help researchers, universities, funders, and policy makers track, analyse and enhance the policy impact of scholarly work. By improving visibility into the policy landscape and knowledge exchange pathways, we aim to champion more informed, evidence-based policymaking.

POST: Curious about how your research can help Parliament scrutinise and debate the work of Government? Meet the team from POST, the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, an impartial research and knowledge exchange service that connects MPs and Peers with the latest evidence. Find out how we write our POSTnotes, explore opportunities to engage with Parliament's inquiries and pitch your briefing ideas to us!

David Cleevely: CSaP's founding director (2009-2015) will host a discussion on his latest work, 'Serendipity: it doesn't happen by accident'. Serendipity has been misunderstood for too long. 'Engineered serendipity' is the deliberate creation of environments, networks, and interactions that significantly raise the likelihood of valuable, unexpected discoveries. Serendipity doesn't have to be left to chance; we can systematically and intentionally design for it and create the opportunities for it to happen.

Tristram Riley-Smith: A former CSaP Associate Fellow, Tristram will be available to share and discuss the latest NSEC report on: [How can we manage the risk from AI being used to spread Information Disorder](#). Topics include the use of agentic AI to refine disinformation campaigns, the risk of public scepticism towards all information, and proposals for an Office of Media Literacy. Tristram will showcase several AI tools for education (including Graide and Anywyse) allowing participants to get some hands-on experience and explore the capabilities of these tools.

14:30 SESSION 3: Parallel seminars x 3

Seminar 1 (Kohn Centre): Supporting mental health and neurodiversity in young people

This session will explore the multifaceted challenges in supporting children and young people with neurodevelopmental disorders, neurodiversity and mental health conditions, and share insights on how policy and practice could evolve to improve outcomes.

Chair: [Loic Menzies](#), Senior Research Associate, Intellectual Forum, Jesus College, University of Cambridge; and Chief Research Officer, Centre for Education Systems

- [Professor Duncan Astle](#), Programme Leader, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, University of Cambridge
- [Professor Tamsin Ford](#), Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University of Cambridge
- [Charlotte Kume-Holland](#), Deputy Director, Mental Health Strategy and Delivery, Department of Health and Social Care

Seminar 2 (Wolfson room 1): What can academic evidence and expertise contribute to the UK's housebuilding targets?

Labour's 2025 manifesto included the ambitious target to build 1.5 million new houses within five years. So far, measures to achieve this have focussed on planning reforms, but other obstacles remain in the way of reaching the target, including local opposition, financing gaps, and the disproportionate distribution of rises in land value. How might a better use of research and evidence work to unlock practical new solutions to one of this government's most pressing challenges?

Chair: [Salma Shah](#), former Government adviser and CSaP Advisory Board member

- [Stephen Aldridge](#), Director for Analysis and Data, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- [Anthony Breach](#), Associate Director, Centre for Cities
- [Miles Gibson](#), Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

Seminar 3 (Wolfson room 2): Networks & inclusive innovation – experiences from Cambridge and Manchester

Using the [Manchester-Cambridge partnership](#) as a case study, panellists will explore how combining human and informational networks can foster inclusive innovation through engineered serendipity – the intentional design of environments that enable unexpected yet valuable connections.

Chair: [Tabitha Goldstaub](#), Non-Executive Director, Innovate Cambridge

- [Dr Kathryn Chapman](#), Executive Director, Innovate Cambridge
 - [Professor Lou Cordwell](#), Special Advisor to the Office of the President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester
 - [Dr David Cleevely](#), Royal Academy of Engineering
-

15:45 BREAK

16:15 SESSION 4 (Wellcome Trust Lecture Theatre): Highlights from the day's discussions

A discussion on some of the key takeaways from today's sessions and how government can draw on research expertise to help tackle the big challenges the UK faces.

Chair **Rob Doubleday**, Centre for Science and Policy

- **Tabitha Goldstaub**: Inclusive innovation
- **Salma Shah**: Housebuilding targets
- **Tamsin Ford**: Supporting mental health in young people
- **Jon Roozenbeek**: Disinformation, security and democracy

With guest speaker, **Hannah White**, Director and CEO, Institute for Government

17:15 Closing remarks

17:30-19:30 DRINKS & NETWORKING
