

# Centre for Britain and Europe

/ RESEARCH, POLICY, COMMUNITY /



CENTRE *for*  
BRITAIN &  
EUROPE

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

# What we are

The Centre for Britain and Europe (CBE) is a groundbreaking public-policy research institute based at the University of Surrey in Guildford, England. It was founded in 2019 by Professor Amelia Hadfield and is comprised of a multitude of academics, policy practitioners, and professional staff. In its research wing, it has produced many high-quality academic outputs, hosted conferences, and involved extensively with publicly funded research, Horizon Europe projects, and provided commentary to news outlets and briefs to the UK parliament.

To further cooperation with the private and public sectors, the Centre also comprises **CBE Global**, which leads public-impact projects in areas of sustainability, economic regeneration, socioeconomic policy, and security and foreign relations. Some of our stakeholders include local governments Surrey County Council (SCC) and the Surrey High Sheriff, international businesses such as MHA, Gordon Murray, and Wates, and interdisciplinary institutions such as the UN Affiliated CIFAL Centre on Sustainability and Centre of Excellence on Ageing (CEA). CBE Global also counts partners across Europe in Brussels and works frequently with Members of Parliament and think tanks in the UK and EU.

The Centre is among the most important institutions in Surrey in bridging gaps between academics, government, practitioners, and the public and can work with you to improve the success and impact of your projects locally, nationally, and internationally.



# Who we are



## Professor Amelia Hadfield

Founder and Co-Director

Amelia joined the University of Surrey in 2019 as Head of the Department of Politics, founding the Centre for Britain and Europe in 2020, which then became a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence the following year, expanding into key research areas, cultivating a strong relationship with local government and regional businesses, while actively promoting areas of UK-EU collaboration. In 2021, Amelia was appointed Dean International and in October 2023 then become Associate Vice-President of External Engagement. In December 2024, as a result of her work with UNITAR, the UN's research and capacity building agency, Amelia was appointed inaugural Director of **CIFAL Surrey**, a knowledge exchange hub based within the university's Institute for Sustainability, dedicated to training and capacity building climate literacy, climate leadership and sustainability more broadly.



## Dr Alia Middleton

Co-Director

Dr Middleton is a senior lecturer of Politics at the University of Surrey. She is CBE's foremost expert in Electoral politics, party campaigning strategies, UK strategic political communication, party leadership/constituency relations, and UK general election candidate recruitment.



## Professor Theofanis Exadaktylos

Horizon Europe Convener

Professor Exadaktylos is Professor in European Politics, the Head of Department of Politics at the University of Surrey, and oversees all Horizon Europe projects at CBE. His specialisation is on European public policy and European external affairs. His work focuses on issues of political trust, policy implementation and policy reform, Europeanization, issues of democracy and democratisation and the European Neighbourhood. His most recent book is on policy styles in the age of pandemics and policy responses to Covid-19. He is the editor of the European Political Science Review. He holds a PhD in Politics from the University of Exeter, an MSc. in European Political Economy: Integration from the London School of Economics, and a BA in Economics and International Relations (Europe and the former USSR) from Tufts University.





## **Professor Daniele Albertazzi**

PSA Convener

Professor Albertazzi has been the principal investigator of several research projects focusing on right wing populism, Italian politics, political communication and party organisation. These have been funded by major British research organisations, such as the Leverhulme Trust, the Arts and Humanities Research Council and The British Academy. He has published widely on European politics in international journals, such as *West European Politics*, *Party Politics* and *Government & Opposition*. He has also published on Italian politics in international journals, such as *Contemporary Italian Politics*, *Modern Italy* and the *Journal of Modern Italian Studies*. Professor Albertazzi is also the Co-Convener of the Italian Politics Specialist group of the Political Studies Association (UK) and a former co-director of CBE.



## **Maya Chew**

Operations and Insights Lead

Maya leads operational strategy at the Centre for Britain and Europe, where she oversees programmes, visual data analytics, advisory projects, and the management of events and outreach initiatives. As a sociologist, her PhD research explores the life course of LGBTQ+ communities in the Global South, with a focus on lived experience and structural inequality. Prior to joining CBE, Maya spent a decade in international education and public diplomacy, working with the US government-funded Fulbright Programme in Kuala Lumpur, and later with New York-based EdTech startups Concourse and Grok Global. She is a Chevening alumna, an ESRC IAA Commercialisation Fellow, and a Fellow at Surrey's Centre for Excellence on Ageing (CEA).



## **Megan Ward**

Communications and PR Officer

Megan is a graduate of the Politics and International Relations department at the University of Surrey and now oversees the Centre for Britain and Europe's main channels of communication, drives stakeholder engagement and amplifies our research and hosted events. Prior to joining the team, she served as a Research Assistant for the Centre for the Study of Global Power Competition, where she compiled a global database of National Security Strategies for researchers and policymakers. Her work broadly relates to European influence and relationships with external threats, with a particular interest in humanitarian strategy and coordination. Her efforts strengthen CBE's ties with both local and international partners while driving its aim to inform policy and practice.



## Dr Vassilis Karokis-Mavrikos

CBE Post-Doctoral Fellow

Dr Vassilis Karokis-Mavrikos is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Department of Politics and International Relations, working primarily on the UKRI/Horizon project 'REDEMOS'. His research focuses on the drivers of policy change, policy entrepreneurship, and governance patterns at both national and international levels. He specialises in policy process research, with a particular interest in health policy, crisis management, digital governance and place-based policy outcomes. He has served as an advisor to the Greek government and as the national expert for Greece in the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. He holds a PhD from the University of Surrey as well as an MSc in Public Policy and Administration and a BSc in Government and Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE).



## Dr Nivedita Chatterjee

CBE Post-Doctoral Fellow

Dr Nivedita Chatterjee is post-doctoral researcher and an associate lecturer at University of Surrey. Her work focuses on digital communication and new media practices. Her research focuses on how collective action and strategies develop in the evolving digital landscape, populist sentiments; what kind of anxieties and strategies parents have with regards to AI and social media; and what does it mean for vulnerable and ones in the margins of society. She has worked with women, young people and victims of sexual abuse. In addition she is also the Communication Officer and Representative of ECREA (European Communication Research and Education Association) and YECREA (Young scholars' network of ECREA), respectively.



## Margaryta Khvostova

CBE Doctoral Fellow

Margaryta Khvostova is a PhD candidate in Politics at the University of Surrey, specialising in hybrid warfare, human rights, and security in Eastern Europe. Her research examines how human rights are instrumentalised as tools of legitimacy in conflict zones, with a particular focus on Ukraine's frontline regions. Margaryta brings substantial experience in public policy and advocacy, having worked with Ukraine's Reanimation Package of Reforms Coalition and the European Council on Foreign Relations. She has published on human rights, democratic resilience, post-war recovery, and wartime governance. Her work informs current debates on defence, resilience, and security in conflict-affected settings.



## Dr Laura Chappell

Staff Expert / EU Security & Defence Policy

Dr Laura Chappell is Senior Lecturer in European Politics. She holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham. She has published widely on different aspects of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), Polish defence policy, gender and European security as well as co-editing a textbook on Contemporary European Security. Currently, she is co-editor of European Security and runs the UACES Securing Europe (SECEUR) research network with three other colleagues.



## Dr Nikolaos Gkotsis-Papaioannou

Staff Expert / EU-Africa Relations, Global Actorness

Dr Nikolaos Gkotsis-Papaioannou is Senior Lecturer in International Politics. His research explores the tensions between the underpinnings of Normative Power Europe (NPE) and the use of the military as a way of norm diffusion, with a focus on military operations in Somalia. Whilst it contributes to the literature on CSDP, his work is concerned with demonstrating the catalytic role of the establishment of the EEAS in the evolution of the EU's normative identity as a crucial component of its global actorness. Nikos' pedagogical research sits on the cross-section of critical pedagogy and pedagogy of care, building upon the nascent 'punk pedagogies'. He examines the potential that its application can have on building what he proposes as the 'symbiotic academic environment', inspiring student-led teaching and the creation-ownership of knowledge. He is also the EDI Lead of the School of Social Sciences.



## Dr Simona Guerra

Staff Expert / Euroscepticism

Dr Simona Guerra is a leading scholar in Euroscepticism and European Studies. She has secured over €1.5 million in research funding and published widely, including *The Oxford Handbook of Polish Politics* and *The Routledge Handbook on Euroscepticism*. She has delivered international keynote talks, held editorial roles such as founding editor of *Political Research Exchange (PRX)* and editor-in-chief of *Representation*, and earned recognition through visiting professorships and teaching awards. Her current research, supported by the European Parliament, focuses on early women in European integration (1952-1969), and she supervises projects on European integration, EU attitudes, and women's roles in its history.



## Dr Roula Nezi

Staff Expert / Electoral Behaviour

Dr Roula Nezi is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science at the University of Surrey and a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her research examines developments in public opinion and political attitudes, political parties and party systems, and electoral behaviour. She is also the Director of Postgraduate Research at the Department of Politics at the University of Surrey.



## Dr Simon Curtis

Staff Expert / Global Cities, Great Power Competition

Dr Curtis joined the University of Surrey in 2023. He had previously been an Associate Professor in International Relations at the University of East Anglia, and holds a PhD from the London School of Economics. His books include *Global Cities* and *Global Order* (Oxford University Press), which was awarded the 2018 Hedley Bull Prize by the European Consortium for Political Research, and *The Belt and Road City* (Yale University Press, 2024).

## Dr Ciaran Gillespie

Staff Expert / Politics of Immersive Technologies

Dr Gillespie is a lecturer in international politics, working on a range of topics relating to peace, conflict and the broader politics of security. He is the convenor for the British International Studies Working Group 'International Studies & Emerging Technology'. Current research explores the politics of new immersive visual technologies, particularly the development of VR as a platform for political communication. He has conducted field research on the subject in Israel and Palestine, and published on the broader political economy of 'virtualising' technology. Key themes in the work revolve around how immersive tech conveys political meaning through heightened states of affective engagement, and the serious implications this has for propagation of powerful narratives, and even radicalisation.

## Dr Alex Leveringhaus

Staff Expert / Ethics, Armed Conflict

Dr Alex Leveringhaus is Lecturer in Political Theory at Surrey. He specialises in political philosophy, with a focus on ethics and conflict. Dr Leveringhaus is interested in the ethical challenges arising from new and emerging military technologies, especially in the context of European rearmament, as well as rapid advances in AI. Prior to coming to Surrey, Dr Leveringhaus held post-doctoral fellowships at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict, as well as the University of Manchester. He is the author of *Ethics and Autonomous Weapons*.



# Our Work

## Our Expertise

Our works delves into these six distinct themes covering extensively but not limited to the UK and European affairs:

- Foreign security and defence policy
- Government and governance
- Gender and identity
- Parties and populism
- Energy and sustainability
- Stakeholder engagement

**Advisory Provision:** As a policy centre, CBE provides policy **advisory** to various stakeholders. Some of the ongoing and past commissioned work include local and global governments, businesses, and community and public-interest institutions. We continue to engage with many prospective business leaders, and institutions with public-interest and impact ideas.

## European-Funded Programmes

One of the largest **Horizon Europe** projects undertaken by CBE is the **Reconfiguring EU Democracy Support (REDEMOS)** project. With a consortium of 11 European research-oriented and academic institutions, it seeks to address the fragile state of democracy in Eastern Europe and provide ways forward for EU democracy support in its eastern neighbourhood.

**H2020 PROTECT** was a project funded by the EU which upholds and advances an effective global refugee protection system within today's turbulent political context.

**Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence** was awarded to the CBE by the European Union from 2020-2023. Connected to the wider Erasmus+ programme, Jean Monnet projects have for many years supported the development of universities, departments, academics, and students, provide funding to support teaching, research and outreach that facilitates knowledge and practice exchange on a wide range of European issues.

## Outputs

CBE prides itself through its public impact works with various stakeholders and parties including the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO), provision of UK parliamentary briefs, collaboration with Surrey County Council, MHA, op-ed pieces, news appearances on BBC, and numerous high-quality publications. Some of our cutting-edge works include: **Unseen Surrey: An Exploratory Overview of the NEET Crisis**, **Scoping Review of Automotive Education: Gordon Murray Institute**, **Fair Value in Surrey's Food Supply Chain**, **Charting the Role of Growth and Inward Investment in Surrey**, and **Charting Surrey's Post-Covid Rescue, Recovery, and Growth** (available via the subsequent QR code). For ongoing thought leadership and commentary, explore our internal opinion articles on the **CBE blog**.





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## Making a difference

Since our founding in 2019, we are proud that CBE has contributed positively through its scholarly outputs and practical engagement to our local and regional communities, and to have been part of progressive and positive changes in the overall UK-EU conversation in key sectors and forums. We continue to engage extensively with local government, local businesses, and the voluntary sector, as well as community actors more broadly. We look forward to hearing from you!

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