Political Studies Association
TEACHING & LEARNING NETWORK

TLN 2026 Annual Conference: Reshaping Political Studies

'Teaching amid Chaos'

3 – 4 September 2026, University of Glasgow – Adam Smith Building (University of Glasgow: Campus Map)

A warm welcome to the PSA Teaching & Learning Network's annual conference in Glasgow. This year's theme is centred around the seemingly chaotic nature of teaching in Higher Education that is being driven by international turmoil, the destabilisation of financial models that had underpinned the sector, and the emergence of Artificial Intelligence as an integral part of both student and teacher's day-to-day lives.

The PSA Teaching and Learning Network Leads would like to thank our hosts, the University of Glasgow, and in particular Andrew Judge, Niccole Pamphilis, and Sergiu Gherghina for all the work they have put into creating this space for us to come together and share ideas, teaching practice, and potential solutions to the problems many of us face in teaching in a modern Higher Education setting.

We are pleased to announce that the Keynote address of the conference will be given by Dr Donna Smith, Senior Lecturer at The Open University and Honorary Secretary of the PSA

Title: Teaching amid chaos: what online distance learning teaches us about resilient pedagogy (see below for details on timing and location)

As higher education navigates mounting uncertainty – from AI and precarity to changing student expectations and debates around free speech – what can political studies learn from institutions already experienced in teaching through disruption? Drawing on perspectives from the Political Studies Association (PSA) and the Open University (OU), this keynote explores how the discipline is responding strategically to sector-wide change while sustaining inclusive, high-quality teaching.

Reflecting on the role of the PSA and the OU's distinctive practice in large-scale online learning, it considers key tensions between consistency and innovation, standardisation and flexibility, and excellence and sustainability. The keynote highlights lessons from the OU as a long-standing 'laboratory' for teaching amid uncertainty, including approaches to student partnership, belonging, mental health, AI, and the value of teaching-focused career pathways. Framed through the TLN's role as a community of practice, the session invites collective reflection on the future of teaching and learning in political studies.

On behalf of the PSA and the TLN Network Leads we hope you enjoy the conference!

Gregory Stiles, Susan Kenyon, Simon Lightfoot, Chris Featherstone, Adrian Millican, and Teaching and Learning Network PSA Trustee Emma Foster.

Political Studies Association
TEACHING & LEARNING NETWORK

Conference Schedule Overview		
Day 1 — Thursday 3 September, Adam Smith Building		
Time	**Session**	**Location**
9.00am	☕ **Coffee, tea & networking**	Adam Smith Building
9.30am	**Welcome** — Professor Rose Gann, PSA Chair	Room 487
10.00–11.10am	**Panel 1 — Alternative Pedagogies 1**	Rooms 141A & B
	Panel 2 — Learning to do better 1	Room 487
11.10–11.20am	☕ **Break** — 10 mins	—
11.20am–12.30pm	**Panel 3 — Alternative Pedagogies 2**	Rooms 141A & B
	Panel 4 — Learning to do better 2	Room 487
12.30–1.30pm	🍽️ **Lunch**	Adam Smith Building
1:30–2:30pm	🎤 **KEYNOTE — Dr Donna Smith, The Open University** *Teaching amid chaos: what online distance learning teaches us about resilient pedagogy*	Room 487
2.30–3.00pm	☕ **Break** — 30 mins	—
3.00–4.10pm	**Panel 5 — State of the sector**	Room 487
	Panel 6 — Artificial Intelligence 1	Rooms 141A & B
4.10–4.30pm	☕ **Break** — 20 mins	—
4.30pm	🤝 **University of Glasgow Innovative Pedagogy Hub — SoTL Speed-Dating**	Room 487
7.00pm	🍽️ **Conference Dinner** — pre-booked only	Òran Mór

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Conference Schedule Overview		
Day 2 — Friday 4 September, Adam Smith Building		
Time	**Session**	**Location**
9.00–10.00am	☕ **Coffee, tea & networking**	Adam Smith Building
10.00–11.10am	**Panel 7 — Alternative Pedagogies 3**	**Rooms 141A & B**
	Panel 8 — Artificial Intelligence 2	**Room 487**
11.10–11.20am	☕ **Break** — 10 mins	—
11.20am–12.30pm	**Panel 9 — Alternative Pedagogies 4**	**Room 487**
	Panel 10 — Artificial Intelligence 3	**Rooms 141A & B**
12.30–1.30pm	🍽️ **Lunch**	Adam Smith Building
1.30–3.00pm	👩‍🏫 **ASPIRE Workshop — Crafting your Teaching & Scholarship career narrative**	Room 487
3.00pm	🏁 **CONFERENCE END**	—

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Political Studies Association TEACHING & LEARNING NETWORK

Thursday 3 September - Adam Smith Building

9am - Coffee/tea and networking – Adam Smith Building

9.30am - Welcome - Professor Rose Gann, PSA Chair – Room 487

10.00am - 11.10am

Panel 1: Alternative Pedagogies 1 - Rooms 141A and B

Chaired by Dr Chris Featherstone, University of York

1. **Comedy as a Critical Tool in Queer Pedagogy** – Dr Emma Foster (University of Birmingham); Dr Peter Kerr (University of Birmingham); Dr Carolina Silveira (University of West Scotland)
2. **The Politics of Queer Visibility in the Classroom** – Dr Carolina Silveira (University of West Scotland); Dr Erdem Avsar (University of Glasgow)
3. **Teaching Politics Beyond the Page: Student agency, institutional design, and difficult knowledge** – Jamie-Lukas Campbell (Queens University Belfast)
4. **Relational Pedagogy Without Foundations: A Capacious Case for Care Among Chaos** – Dr John Wilesmith (University College London)

10.00am - 11.10am

Panel 2 - Learning to do better 1 – Room 487

Chaired by Professor Rose Gann, Nottingham Trent University

1. **Why do students hate skills modules? The start of a research project –** Professor Simon Lightfoot (University of Leeds); Dr Alexandra Meakin (University of Leeds)
2. **Teaching international security through scenarios: Lessons learned from successful zombies and nuclear failures** – Dr Gregory Stiles (University of Sheffield)
3. **Beyond 'Better Feedback': the Politics of Student Dissatisfaction** – Dr Robert Watt (University of Manchester)
4. **Exploring the tension between collaboration and competition in employability skills** – Dr Ellen Watts (University of Nottingham)

Break - 10mins

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Thursday 3 September - Adam Smith Building

11.20am - 12.30pm

Panel 3 - **Alternative Pedagogies 2** – Rooms 141A and B

Chaired by Professor Simon Lightfoot, University of Leeds

1. **Educating to transgress': Ecotopian pedagogies for the Symbiocene** – Dr Heather Alberro (University of Manchester); Dr Elke Van dermijnsbrugge (University of Applied Sciences, Leeuwarden, Netherlands); Dr Rhiannon Firth (University College London); Dr Helen Kopnina (Northumbria University)
2. **Teaching Political and Social Institutions through the 3C Framework** – Edwin Akpotu (University of Bradford International College)
3. **Temporality Now! Decoloniality-Priority in the Pedagogical Time-Space** – Dr Andreas Karoutas (University of West Scotland); Dr Habibe Ilhan (University of West Scotland)
4. **Feeling Global Politics: Affective Journals as Reflexive Pedagogy** – Dr Chaeyoung Yong (University of St Andrews)

11.20am -12.30pm

Panel 4 - **Learning to do better 2** – Room 487

Chaired by Dr Gregory Stiles, University of Sheffield

1. **Lessons Learned from Dialogic Assessment** – Dr Terry Hathaway (University of York)
2. **Moving target: what I have learned from teaching politics in (the context of) the Russia-Ukraine War** – Dr Ursula Wooley (University College London)
3. **Who gets to be Political?: Teaching International Relations and Geopolitics in an Age of Conflict and Neoliberalism** – Dr Ben Coulson (University of Edinburgh)

12.30pm – Lunch – Adam Smith Building

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

Political Studies Association TEACHING & LEARNING NETWORK

Thursday 3 September - Adam Smith Building

1.30pm -2.30pm Keynote address

Adam Smith Building Room 487

Dr Donna Smith, The Open University

Teaching amid chaos: what online distance learning teaches us about resilient pedagogy

Break - 30mins

3pm - 4:10pm

Panel 5 - **State of the sector** – Room 487

Chaired by Dr Chris Featherstone, University of York

1. **Between Containment and Transgression: Gaza Activism as resistance to managerialism on a post-92 campus** – Dr James Foley (Glasgow Caledonian University); Dr Neil Russell (Glasgow Caledonian University)
2. **The Ethics of Education Track "Cover Teaching: Reinterpreting Responsibilities to (re)design modules** – Dr John Wilesmith (University College London)
3. **On GenAI and not being the cops** – Professor Cathy Elliott (University College London)
4. **Being judge and jury: ethical and practical challenges around academic misconduct procedures in handling cases of AI misuse** – Dr Luke Armstrong (University of Glasgow); Dr Petar Bankov (University of Glasgow)

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Thursday 3 September - Adam Smith Building

3pm - 4.10pm

Panel 6 - Artificial Intelligence 1 – Rooms 141A and B

Chaired by Dr Emma Foster, University of Birmingham

1. **Peer or AI: Designing a Dialogic Assessment for Learning** – Dr Jillian Terry (London School of Economics)
2. **Teaching Children how to Count: Core Reasoning Skills in the social sciences in the age of Gen AI –** Dr John Evemy (University of York)**;** Dr Sara Van Goozen (University of York)
3. **The role of finance and corporations within England's HE and their differential impacts on students' well-being** – Jago Yelland (University of Bristol)

Break - 20mins

4.30pm - University of Glasgow Innovative Pedagogy Hub Presents: SoTL Speed-Dating

Adam Smith Building Room 487

Join us for a fast-paced speed-dating-style networking session designed to connect you with fellow scholars working on the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL). In a series of quick, rotating conversations, you'll meet researchers and educators from across the UK looking to explore pedagogical questions in politics and IR.

Whether you're new to SoTL or a seasoned pedagogy researcher seeking to build cross-institutional networks, this is your chance to swap ideas, find potential collaborators, and build connections with others who care as much about how we teach as what we teach. Come ready to talk teaching - you might just meet your next co-author.

7pm - Conference Dinner - Òran Mór Restaurant

(pre-booked only)

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Friday 4 September – Adam Smith Building

9am - 10am - Coffee/tea and networking – Adam Smith Building

10.00am -11.10am

Panel 7 - **Alternative Pedagogies 3** – Rooms 141A and B

Chaired by Dr Andrew Judge, University of Glasgow

1. **Bringing punk pedagogies out from the underground** – Dr Nikos Gkotsis-Papaioannou (University of Surrey)
2. **Teaching democratic participation and facilitating student agency in the era of mainstreaming the far right** – Dr Mette Wiggen (University of Leeds)
3. **Teaching Qualitative Methods Amid Chaos: A Scalable Model for Student-Generated Data Analysis Pedagogy** – Dr Daniel Schulte (University College London); Dr John-Paul Salter (University College London); Dr Liz Ralph-Morrow (University College London); Professor Alexandra Hartman (University College London)
4. **Playing theory: play-readings as critical pathways in a political theory classroom** – Dr Tanay Gandhi (University of Leeds)

10am - 11.10am

Panel 8 - **Artificial Intelligence 2** – Room 487

Chaired by Dr Niccole Pamphilis, University of Glasgow

1. **Why AI literacy needs Political Science** – Dr Sebastien Koehler (Queen Mary University London)
2. **AI and Politics Assessment Practice: Threat Framing and Future Practice** – Dr Chris Featherstone (University of York)
3. **Changing notions of intellectual labor among university students in the age of AI: A third-person effect of AI habits on attitudes toward "deservedness"** – Dr Michelle Funk (Pennsylvania State University)

Break - 10mins

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Friday 4 September – Adam Smith Building

11.20am -12.30pm

Panel 9 - **Alternative Pedagogies 4** – Room 487

Chaired by Dr Emma Foster, University of Birmingham

1. **Compulsory modules and student dissatisfaction –** Professor Adrian Millican (Durham University)**;** Professor Lewis Mates (Durham University)
2. **To be, or not to be. Role play as a form of assessment in the study of Gender, Globalisation and Development** – Dr Lisa Thorley (University of Leeds)
3. **GTA Training Provision in UK Politics and IR departments: The State of the Discipline** – Dr Chris Featherstone (University of York); Dr Adam Fusco (University of York); Dan Keith (University of York)
4. **Educational attainment of first generation Politics and IR students at Queen Mary University of London** - Dr Sebastien Koehler (Queen Mary University London)

11.20am - 12.30pm

Panel 10 - **Artificial Intelligence 3** – Rooms 141A and B

Chaired by Professor Sergiu Ghergina, University of Glasgow

1. **Innovating with AI in Methods Pedagogy: Using Free LLM Tools to Teach Interviewing and Textual Analysis Skills** - Dr Daniel Schulte (University College London)
2. **Embedding Engagement with Generative AI into Assessments to Support Students' Critical Thinking Development** – Dr Alison Statham (Northeastern University London)
3. **Research Methods Training and AI: What's Changing and What Should** – Professor Patrick E. Shea (University of Glasgow)

12.30pm - 1.30pm - Lunch - Adam Smith Building

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Political Studies Association TEACHING & LEARNING NETWORK

Friday 4 September – Adam Smith Building

1.30pm - 3pm - An ASPIRE Workshop: Crafting your Teaching & Scholarship career narrative –

Chaired by Dr Jeremy Moulton, University of York; Dr Jillian Terry, London School of Economics; and Professor Stuart McAnulla, University of Leeds – Room 487

Facilitated by the ASPIRE Network this workshop will be a practical how-to session for Teaching & Scholarship colleagues who want to learn how to create a personal "pitch" and craft their career narrative. In the workshop, attendees will learn from a senior academic who has experience in promotion and hiring decisions, be given the time to write their own pitch, and have the opportunity to share their pitch with colleagues to receive feedback.

CONFERENCE ENDS