On Tuesday 12th January 2016, Sir Vince Cable visited Warwick to give a talk on whether we’re heading for a fresh economic crisis. The talk, hosted by Warwick Policy Lab and the Warwick Economics Summit, took place in a packed lecture room with students and staff from across the University in attendance.

Sir Vince Cable, a British politician who was the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation, and Skills from 2010 to 2015, discussed the 2008 financial crisis, referring to himself as the “Politician in opposition in the beginning of the financial crisis”.

He then went on to offer his thoughts on the current economic environment, and turned to the “four legacies” that he saw prevailing in the current economic environment; substantial deleveraging, gigantic banking system, corporate finance and housing price rise. Following the lecture, audience members were able to ask their questions in a Q&A session, and Sir Vince Cable also partook in a signing for his book ‘After the Storm’.

Siobhan Benita, event chair and Co-director of the Warwick Policy Lab, said:

“We covered a whole range of issues; everything from how should the European Union more effectively handle the refugee crisis, to whether the problems in China with its stock market has an impact on the global economy.

We also had an interesting debate about what the election of Jeremy Corbyn to the Labour leadership actually means in terms of what young people are thinking about politics going forward.”

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Sir Vince Cable discusses the economy in Warwick Policy Lab guest lecture

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The event gives you the chance to engage with politicians, policy makers and academics on major issues.

Over 1,000 students and guests took their seats to watch this year’s panel, which included The Right Honourable Hazel Blears, Vicky Pryce, and also saw the return of Douglas Carswell, the only UKIP Member of Parliament, who featured on the panel in 2013 when he was a Conservative MP.

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Question Time 2015 covers a whole range of topical issues

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The opportunity to get a range of different perspectives on so many different topics was really enlightening.”

Ashwin Sharma
Current Student

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Focus on academia

SpOTLIGHT on

Dr Claire Crawford

Background

I studied Economics at the University of Lancaster and did a Masters at UCL. I then joined the Institute for Fiscal Studies, working my way up to lead the education and skills team. I undertook my PhD part-time while I was at IFS and joined Warwick in 2014.

Research

I focus on the economics of education and labour economics. I work a lot on higher education access and finance issues, and I am particularly interested in topics that identify - and ideally can point solutions for - inequalities in outcomes. I address questions like how we can help people from disadvantaged backgrounds go to university, and the financial implications of changes to grants, loans and fees for students, universities and the government.

I also do a lot of work on the effects of government interventions in the early years, such as the impact of Sure Start centres, and whether families that are offered access to free childcare are likely to work more.

Achievements

My top achievements are becoming head of the education and skills team at IFS, and being offered a position at Warwick. I never pictured myself in academia - I thought I'd go to the city to do finance. A lot of students go into economics with a narrow view of where it might lead them - I certainly did - and I think it's important to ensure we equip students with the skills to tackle a whole range of careers.

Known for

I'm probably best known for my work on higher education access, showing how large the gaps are between people from different backgrounds (socio-economic, ethnic, gender), what can explain this and potential solutions. My research suggests, for example, that policies trying to reduce gaps in university entry should focus on raising attainment earlier in the school system, rather than providing application support.

Warwick

I really like the campus, particularly the fact that it's so much a part of the local community, unlike some other campus universities.

MY PHD RESEARCH

Watch MRes/PhD student Rigissa Megalokonomou discuss her research at Warwick.

BEHAVIOURAL ECONOMICS AT WARWICK

In my opinion the finest part of this course is that the class consists of students coming from different backgrounds - some from Economics, others from Psychology and Finance. This helps in cross-cultural interaction which is interesting as there is always plenty to learn and explore about different societies and cultures.

Apart from learning new theories in Economics and Psychology, the course also helps students learn various computer languages like Matlab and R programme which can help train you to collect and analyse various data from the field. Moreover, the subject involving interdisciplinary approach provides a wider arena of jobs not only in Economics, but also Psychology and Business.

Doing a Masters in BES at Warwick, is the best career decision that I have made and I enjoyed each moment that I spent in learning new concepts in decision-making.

Written by Shrut Surachita, Alumni (MSc Behavioural and Economic Science, 2015)

For postgraduates, we offer an advanced, internationally-focused education in Economics that is both intellectually demanding and professionally relevant.

ECONOMICS EXTRA | MARCH 2016

warwick.ac.uk/economics

STUDENTS’ QUESTION TIME EVENT

In January we held our Students’ Question Time event.

Three of our students had the opportunity to sit on a panel alongside Professor Abhijit Muhtadi and Chair Siobhan Baner. There was plenty of audience participation, with some really strong and well thought out opinions.

On the menu were topics such as how public services will cope with an influx of refugees, the widening inequality of income and wealth in the world, and whether it will be possible to reduce carbon emission levels given the desire for growth in developing countries such as India and China.

Our fantastic panellists dealt with all the questions exceptionally well and found it a great way to develop their confidence and public speaking skills. Economics student Hugh Myers said “Participating in Students’ Question Time reinforced my confidence speaking in front of an audience. I feel that I benefited enormously from being able to research a topic, formulate my views, and deliver it in a clear and concise manner.

The audience participation added a welcome dynamic to what were previously inspirational programmes of evening talks. The audience participation added a welcome dynamic to what were previously inspirational programmes of evening talks. The audience participation added a welcome dynamic to what were previously inspirational programmes of evening talks.

With the Head of Department, sports tournaments and more.

WESS is an excellent opportunity for you to enhance your skills and knowledge in Economics by studying at one of the leading Economics departments in Europe.

To apply or for further details go to our website: www.warwick.ac.uk/wess (Please note that you must be aged 18 or over by the day the programme starts in order to be eligible).

A variety of discounts are available for early booking, group bookings and more.

See what our 2014 and 2015 Summer School cohort thought of their WESS experience.

This year’s Warwick Economics Summer School (WESS) will take place from 17 July to 5 August 2016 and applications are now open!

WESS is a three week programme taught by world leading Economists including Professors Ken Binmore CBE and Andrew Oswald. We offer a range of courses but if you’ve previously studied Economics at university you’ll be more suited to our specialist courses for Economists undergraduates and postgraduates, which aim to deepen students’ understanding of Economics. Our specialist courses are Behavioural Economics, Game Theory, International Development and Money and Banking.

Alongside your teaching we offer an inspirational programme of evening talks. This year’s speakers include Nobel Prize winner Professor George Akerlof and The Right Honourable Hazel Blears.

Also included in the tuition fee is a fantastic social programme including day trips to London with a guest lecture at the Shard, Stratford-Upon-Avon and Oxford. We have dinners, a quiz and film night, afternoon tea with the Head of Department, sports tournaments and more.

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Applications now open for the 2016 Warwick Economics Summer School
Focus on Extracurricular activities

On top of an advanced education in Economics, we offer a wide range of extracurricular activities to enrich your student experience. There are activities run by both the department and the Students’ Union societies such as Warwick Economics Society and Warwick Economics Summit.

Our students also run their own high-profile events such as the Warwick Economics Summit and the Warwick International Development Summit.

**WARWICK POLICY LAB**

Warwick Policy Lab is an exciting project which aims to bring academics and policy makers closer together and to produce research and analysis that will have measurable impact.

The Policy Lab is based within the Economics Department. As a student you’ll benefit through the opportunity to attend all the guest lectures. This year’s lecture series has included Dr Kanayo F. Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, Jeremy Wright, Attorney General for England and Wales, and Ciaran Martin, Director General for Cyber Security at GCHQ.

**SOCITIES**

Our Warwick Economics Society offers a wealth of opportunities for you to learn, socialise and focus on your career. It’s an excellent platform to meet and network with your fellow students with similar interests. Sponsors such as Nomura, Citi and Bank of America Merrill Lynch allow the society to host events with top speakers and insights into a variety of different career pathways.

Warwick Economics Exchange is a student-run programme to promote the exchange of ideas from future economists. The focus is on postgraduate students, providing more opportunities for young economists to advocate their insights and findings. They provide opportunities to interact with current economists through colloquium, seminars and lectures, and more importantly for you, to present and discuss your own economic insights and research results.

Previous events have successfully engaged participants in technical, advanced economic study and research. You can find out more on their website or Facebook page.

Our postgraduate students also participate in TEDx Warwick, Warwick Emerging Markets Society and Warwick Investment Forum.

**DEPARTMENTSOCIALS AND TRIPS**

At Warwick Economics we’re focused on giving you the best possible student experience. Our recent postgraduate socials have included a Christmas dinner and disco, an MSc get together, and in Term 3 we’ll be holding an end of year party for all postgraduates with food, drink, music and cakes from around the world.

We’re also continuing to develop the link between Social Sciences and the Arts. This year we’re taking current students to the Swan Theatre in Stratford-Upon-Avon to see the Royal Shakespeare Company perform Don Quixote.

**Engaging with your department**

This year I am part of three committees: Undergraduate Management Committee (UMC), Graduate Management Committee (GMC) and Graduate Staff Student Liaison Committee (GSSLC). At the UMC and GMC I learn how to handle the syllabus, module structure, degree structure and anything else related to the macro aspects of a department. At the GSSLC I discuss the problems postgraduate students have and how to deal with them.

Being on three committees may seem like a lot, but it takes me six hours a term for the meetings (two hours each) and potentially one or two hours more in total to look at the email or meet with people to know their development. If you want to get into university politics Warwick is an organized and professional place where you will learn in one year many more things than what you would expect anywhere else.

**Postgrad sports at Warwick**

At Warwick I can happily say that I have added Squash and Inline Skating to the sports I can play to relax my mind. These two add to my sports stock: Football, Basketball, Kayaking, Tennis, Volleyball, Handball, Chess, Swimming, Boxing and Softball.

At Warwick I have found a place where I can try absolutely everything. Now I am playing football on Sundays but I play squash three times a week at the sports centre with some of my friends. I should say I have never played squash before coming to Warwick. I didn’t even know the rules!

**San’s recommendations:**

1. Form a study group with a couple of students. I met people from our course who have been doing this since the Maths and Stats days, needless to say, they are more efficient at studying and struggle less with macro.

2. Mark the lecture slides with dates, so you can easily match it with the recordings on Lecture capture.

3. Come to the seminars prepared.

4. Be more active during seminars, ask more questions during open house.

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Visit us

Don’t just take it from us, come and see for yourself what postgraduate study at Warwick is all about at one of our Postgraduate Visits.

Or, if you live further afield why not join the conversation at one of our postgraduate live chats.

If you have any queries about studying at the University of Warwick, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.

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The information contained in this document was correct at the time of going to print.