

Exploring Economics, Politics and International Relations – 26 March 2024

For Love, life, and money: the economics of searching for a job, a house, or a partner.”

Dr Eric Smith, Department of Economics

How do buyers decide whether to go ahead now and buy the product on offer or to keep looking for a better deal? It is often a complicated and difficult decision fraught with uncertainty. Nonetheless, the choice is frequent and impacts on many, if not all, of the important choices people confront. This talk reflects on common factors embedded in these decisions and on the implications for economic performance.

Big Brother versus the Invisible Hand: the economics of regulating markets

Dr Eric Smith, Department of Economics

Governments throughout the world have a profound impact on the economy in many different ways. They not only tax and spend, they also restrict what and how buyers and sellers can trade. These regulations permeate our lives. This talk will consider how economics interprets and justifies government regulatory intervention as well as how do we as economists decide whether there is too much or too little regulatory intervention.

Who is more powerful, the US President or the UK Prime Minister?

Professor John Bartle, Department of Government

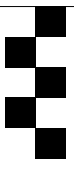
These two leaders are among the most visible and influential individuals on the planet. But who has the most power? The answer to this question seems like a no-brainer. But, as we show in this talk, the obvious answer needs to be heavily qualified and is not-so obvious after all.

Is the world more conflictual?

Dr Natasha Lindstaedt, Department of Government

With the recent wars in Ukraine and Gaza, the world appears to be on fire. But is it really more conflict prone than it was in the past? Or has the character of war changed, and we are entering a new phase of “new wars”?

We explore what we mean by new wars and whether or not the world has become more conflictual.



University of Essex