

# Bristol Festival of Ideas

In association with

**TheObserver**



 @FestivalofIdeas

#economicsfest

[www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

## Festival of Economics 2015

Global  
Market  
Financial  
Vision  
Managed  
Rebalance  
Uncertain  
Causes  
Economic  
Crisis  
Challenges  
Future  
Productivity  
Living standards  
Change  
Hope  
Growth  
System  
Collapse  
Trade  
Development  
Environmental

# ECONOMICS

Ecology  
Planning  
Agencies  
Policy  
Debates  
Sustainable  
Banks  
Phishing  
Risk  
Well-being  
Investment  
Bubble  
Euro  
Politics  
State  
Shrink  
Choice  
Pragmatism  
Inequality  
Mobility  
Revive  
Immigration

Thursday 12 November - Saturday 14 November 2015, At-Bristol

In our fourth Festival of Economics, programmed by Diane Coyle (Enlightenment Economics), economists and other experts from around the world will be debating with each other – and their audiences – some of the key economic questions of our time. All Festival of Economics events take place in At-Bristol.

The festival aims to promote wider learning and debate about economics – so critical to the lives of everyone. This year's festival begins with Vince Cable offering his vision for Britain's economy and continues with discussions on the future of Europe, social mobility, immigration and much more. We are also delighted to welcome the Nobel Prize winner Robert J Shiller to Bristol to debate the economics of manipulation and deception.



Diane Coyle (Alex Sedgwick)

## **Festival of Economics Season Ticket/**

Buy a season ticket for ALL events at £60 / £45. This can be purchased online or in person. Individual ticket prices are listed against each event.

## **Booking and venue information/**

Go to [www.ideasfestival.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk/whats-on) for individual events, to book online and for full terms and conditions. The programme is subject to change. For the latest updates please check the website and sign up to our mailing list.

To book in person:

At-Bristol, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5DB

Tel: 01179 151000 (local rate call), 9:00-17:00 weekdays

[www.at-bristol.org.uk](http://www.at-bristol.org.uk)

# Thursday 12 November 2015/

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**18:00-19:00**

## **The Future British Economy in an Uncertain World**

**An interview with Vince Cable**

**£9 / £7**

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Vince Cable, Business Secretary in the 2010-2015 government, provides an inside view of the coalition and a unique perspective on the state of global financial markets. He offers his vision for the way the British economy should be managed over the next decade and beyond, suggesting how Britain can rebalance its economy in an increasingly uncertain global market.

**19:30-21:00**

## **The No-Growth Economy: Is it the Only Way to Save the Planet?**

**£9 / £7**

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Alex Bowen (LSE)

Katherine Drayson (Policy Exchange)

Cameron Hepburn (University of Oxford)

Camilla Toulmin (International Institute for Environment and Development)

Kate Raworth (University of Oxford)

With key international talks in Paris coming up at the end of the year, what kind of agreement would be needed to actually tackle climate change, and what is realistic? Some environmentalists argue that the only hope lies in the radical decision to call a halt to economic growth, but others think this is neither possible nor even desirable.

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**BRISTOL**  
EUROPEAN  
2015 GREEN CAPITAL

Vince Cable, Joris Luyendijk (Fjodor Buis),  
Robert J Shiller and Monique Ebell.



# Friday 13 November 2015/

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**12:30-13:30**

**Swimming with Sharks: My Journey into the World of the Bankers**

**An interview with Joris Luyendijk**

**£7 / £6**

If you could peer inside a megabank what would you see? Speaking with over 200 City insiders, Joris Luyendijk set out to understand the secretive, complex world of high finance. What emerged was a picture of fear and deep dysfunction. From the toxic short-termism of the 'hire and fire' culture, to technological and mathematical opacity and banks that know they are too big to fail, Luyendijk warns we have the blueprint for a new scandal, debacle or even crash.

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**18:00-19:00**

**Robert J Shiller: The Economics of Manipulation and Deception**

**£9 / £7**

Nobel Prize winner Robert J Shiller argues that markets, inherently filled with tricks and traps, harm as well as help us. He shows how phishing affects everyone, and explains why, at a time when we are better off than ever before in history, all too many of us are leading lives of quiet desperation when it comes to finance and economics.

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**19:30-21:00**

**The European End-Game: What Does the Future Hold for the EU?**

**£9 / £7**

Chair: Martin Sandbu (FT)

Monique Ebell (National Institute of Economic and Social Research)

Frances Coppola (former banker and now commentator)

Vito Polito (University of Bath)

Simon Tilford (Centre for European Reform)

With the eurozone crisis in Greece, question marks hanging over the UK's EU membership, and concerns about the changing demographics of Europe and the increase of populist politics, is there any scope for optimism about the future of the European economy? Could a new trade treaty with the US stimulate growth? Will governments achieve structural reforms? In short, is there an optimistic vision for a twenty-first century EU?

# Saturday 14 November 2015/

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**10:30-12:00**

## **Honey, I Shrank the State: Is There a Future for the Public Sector?**

**£9 / £7**

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Chair: Katrine Marçal (columnist and author)  
Nick Crafts (University of Warwick)  
Stephen Davies (Institute of Economic Affairs)  
Rachel Gibson (University of Manchester)  
Michael Keating (University of Aberdeen)

With the new government committed to continuing to reduce government spending, the size of the state in the UK is planned to shrink to the lowest for many decades. Is that an ideological choice or just pragmatism given the size of the budget deficit? What are the implications for the kind of public sector we will have in future?

**13:00-14:30**

## **The Growth of Inequality and Reviving Social Mobility**

**£9 / £7**

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Chair: Sarah Smith (University of Bristol)  
Jo Blanden (University of Surrey)  
François Bourguignon (Paris School of Economics)  
Paul Johnson (Institute for Fiscal Studies)  
Julian Le Grand (LSE)

Inequality has dominated economic and political debate following the publication of Thomas Piketty's book *Capital in the Twenty-First Century*. To what extent has social mobility declined in the advanced economies? Have we really returned to the hierarchical society of the 1930s? Why does social mobility matter? And can anything be done to revive it?

**15:30-17:00**

## **Immigration and Future Prosperity**

**£9 / £7**

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Chair: Emran Mian (Social Market Foundation)  
Diane Coyle (University of Manchester)  
John Driffill (Birkbeck)  
Martin Ruhs (University of Oxford)  
Susie Symes (Museum of Immigration and Diversity)

Immigration was one of the doorstep issues of the election campaign: both the Conservatives and Labour, as well as UKIP, campaigned on restricting immigration numbers. Yet the voters who are most concerned tend to live in areas where there is the least immigration, and the balance of economic evidence is that immigrants are positive for the economy. What are the real issues of concern? How should policy respond?

Katrine Marçal (Anna-Lena Ahlström)  
and Emran Mian.



# The Festival of Economics 2015 is supported by/

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Waterstones

## Coming soon/

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### Festival of the Future City 17-20 November 2015

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Cities are the future, as the majority of the population move to live and work in them. Cities offer opportunities for local action, as well as partnership action with other cities coordinated through mayors and city leaders.

With Bristol European Green Capital in 2015, we're generating the largest debate ever about future cities, looking not just at sustainability and resilience, but at all aspects of city living, working, education, play and development. The festival is the culmination of this work.

## Acknowledgements/

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The Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring programme of discussion and debate. The year-round festival, established in 2005, covers a wide range of topics, and welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, musicians, novelists and commentators on all subjects.

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (BCDP):



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