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*ESRC Research Seminar Series*  
*Complexity & Policy*

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Prof. Eve Mitleton-Kelly  
Director  
Complexity Group, LSE

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# *ESRC Research Seminars Competition 2007/8*

## *6 Co-Applicants*

- Prof. Eve Mitleton-Kelly, Director, Complexity Research Programme, LSE (Principal Organiser)
  - Prof. Brian Salter, Professor of Politics of Biomedicine, Centre for Biomedicine and Society, King's College London
  - Prof. Jeff Johnson, Professor of Complexity Science and Design, Open University
  - Prof. Peter Allen, Professor of Evolutionary Complex Systems, Cranfield
  - Prof. Robert Geyer, Professor of Politics, Complexity and Policy, Lancaster University
  - Alex Paraskevas, Senior Lecturer, Oxford Brookes
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*Applied Complexity Theory as the New  
Framework for Management and Public Policy*

**Sem. 1 with KCL** at LSE ‘*The Global Governance of New Health Technologies*’ – 26 November 2008

**Sem. 2 with OU** at LSE: ‘*Complexity Challenges for Energy Policy and Climate Change*’ – Spring 2009

**Sem. 3 at Cranfield:** ‘*Modelling of Policy Decisions*’ – 10 June 2009

**Sem. 4 at Lancaster:** ‘*Complexity and the International Arena*’ - Oct/Nov 2009

**Sem. 5 at Oxford Brookes** ‘*Terrorism and the Complexity of Soft Targets: The Case of the Tourism Industry*’ - Feb/Mar 2010

**Sem. 6 at LSE** ‘*Complexity as a Framework for Public Policy*’ - June/July 2010

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## *Objectives of the Seminar Series*

- (a) Involve policy makers
  - (b) Develop an active network of academics and policy makers
  - (c) Explore new challenges and prepare joint research project proposals
  - (d) Build research capacity by involving post-grad and post-doc students, as well as early career researchers
  - (e) Have a beneficial impact on UK competitiveness and help improve effectiveness of public policy
  - (f) Maximise impact and dissemination, by video recording/web-casting the seminars
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## *Outputs*

- (a) An active network of policy makers and academics\*
  - (b) Research project proposals\*
  - (e) A set of videos/web-casts
  - (f) A dedicated website, that will include the videos/web-casts and a discussion forum\*
  - (h) Series of working papers by participants\* (who attended the seminars or saw the videos/web-casts)
  - (i) Conference papers
  - (j) An edited volume based on the seminar papers, by both academics and practitioners\*
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# *Seminar Programme*

09.30 Welcome and Introductions

09.45 Dr. Barbara Prainsack: Senior Lecturer, Centre for Biomedicine & Society (CBAS), King's College, London & video presentation by Prof. Hendrik Wagenaar, Leiden University

11.00 Coffee

11.15 Prof. Aurora Plomer: Chair in Law and Bioethics, Director of SIBLE, School of Law, University of Sheffield with Dr Peter Taylor, Oxford University

12.30 Lunch

13.30 Prof. Joyce Tait: Scientific Advisor, Innogen ESRC Centre, Edinburgh

14.45 Panel Discussion on the contribution of complexity and identification of main challenges

15.30 Tea

15.45 Exploring Topics for Joint Projects – Break out groups

17.15 Overview

17.30 End of seminar

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## *Challenges*

- The Panel & Speakers will identify challenges after each presentation & during Panel session
  - ***What contribution can complexity theory make to the governance of new health technologies?***
  - Objective: to identify potential topics/challenges for joint inter-disciplinary research projects
  - After each presentation, each complexity Panellist will briefly outline some complexity issues associated with that topic
  - Panel Session: Panellists will summarise the contribution complexity theory can make, reflecting on all 3 presentations and the earlier discussions
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## *Participant discussions*

- 7 groups of 7 participants (random) to discuss the challenges and choose at least one that has potential as a project idea
  - Project Ideas on flip charts – participants choose which they wish to discuss, add name on flip chart
  - Break-out groups to discuss potential project & report back on:
    - Choose leader who is prepared to take the idea forward and liaise with Brian & Eve
    - Which disciplines? (at least the field and complexity)
    - Who do you want to invite to join your group (to provide needed expertise)? Must include policy makers.
    - Which are the main scientific & policy challenges?
    - Funding sources?
    - Next steps?
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## *Your Participation*

- Discussions & taking an active role in a project
  - Leading a project
  - Working papers on the topic – all participants, including Second Life participants
  - Full papers, for publication, based on the topic
  - Spread the word & involve other researchers and policy makers to create an active network
  - Take part in the on-line discussion forum
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*Thank you*

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*www.lse.ac.uk/complexity*

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