



INSTITUTE OF
COMMONWEALTH
STUDIES

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON



Soft Power in the Contemporary Commonwealth: Approaches, Opportunities and Challenges

15 March 2023

Online | via Zoom

All times are listed in **GMT** (London time).

You can check the event times, in your local time zone via: www.worldtimebuddy.com

10.15– 10.30 Welcome and Introduction

Dr Sue Onslow (Director, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, SAS)

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81647276999?pwd=OHM5REJ3bINiWnJtb0xlUWM2elZWZz09>

Meeting ID: 816 4727 6999

Passcode: 019693

10.30 – 12.00 Panel 1

SOFT POWER REVISITED: ACTORS, NORMS AND INSTITUTIONS

Chair: Dr Sue Onslow (Institute of Commonwealth Studies)

- The rule of law and the Commonwealth's soft power
Pamela Martino (Università degli Studi di Bari Aldo Moro)
- The Commonwealth, multilateralism and soft power
Paul Flather (St Antony's College, Oxford)
- The contradictions of soft power and the Commonwealth: the case of the "British" monarchy
Philip Murphy (History & Policy, Institute of Historical Research, SAS)

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12.00– 12.30 Break

12.30 – 13.30 Keynote lecture

The Commonwealth Charter and its contemporary relevance

Hon. Michael Kirby, former Justice of the High Court of Australia

Introduced by the **Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Rifkind**, chair of the Committee investigating Commonwealth Studies at the University of London.

Note: this keynote event will be delivered in person in the Wolfson Suite, Institute of Historical Research, School of Advanced Study, University of London. It will also be livestreamed and recorded.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83887431239?pwd=cUhEK3UzUULqbEprQmIpc29QbGw2dz09>

Webinar ID: 838 8743 1239

Passcode: 095728

13.30– 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 15.45 Panel 2

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY, EDUCATION NETWORKS AND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF LEARNING

Chair: Anaïs Makhzoum (Université de Picardie Jules Verne)

- British cultural diplomacy and the universities in the transition from Empire to Commonwealth, 1945-1960

Alice Byrne (Aix-Marseille Université)

- Soft Power Mechanisms and Higher Education in the Commonwealth

Brendan Harrison (Association of Commonwealth Universities)

- The Commonwealth of Learning & Building Workforce Ready Skills in the Bahamas

Robert Robertson (Institute of Commonwealth Studies)

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15.15– 15.45 Break

15.45 – 17.15 Panel 3

THE POLITICS OF RIGHTS AND JUSTICE IN THE CONTEMPORARY COMMONWEALTH: SOFT POWER NETWORKS IN ACTION

Chair: Mélanie Torrent (Université de Picardie Jules Verne/ICwS)

- The division of labour between the inter-state and non-state Commonwealths as a way of bolstering the Commonwealth's soft power

Virginie Roiron (Sciences Po Strasbourg)

- Facing the Past in order to Lead in the Future: How will Addressing the Commonwealth's Challenging Past Help to Ensure its Effective Use of Soft Power in the Future?

Carollann Braum (Anglo-American University School of Law in Prague)

- Is the Commonwealth a means of soft power for African states?

Oluwaseun Tella (University of Johannesburg)

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17.15– 17.30 Conference closing remarks

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