

POLITICALTOURS

Travel beyond the headlines

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Experts Weekend – 2 nights

Dates:

March 2020, Friday 6th to Sunday 8th

The Travellers Club, 106 Pall Mall, London, UK

With Tour experts and invited speakers

Political Tours is bringing together some of our top speakers for a weekend of discussion and debate in one of London's most famous clubs, The Travellers Club. It is a fantastic opportunity to catch up with experts from tours you may have joined, or are thinking of joining, meet your fellow Political Tourists, and get first-rate insight into global developments.

Confirmed speakers include the leading Islamist expert, Dr Elisabeth Kendall, Re-Elect Trump campaign manager and former Republican Party co-chair, Bob Paduchik, Tobias Jones, our Italy expert, as well as Charlie Gammell discussing Iran and Afghanistan and the economist Shanker Singham, amongst others.

There will be an introductory dinner on the Friday, lunch and dinner on Saturday, and lunch on Sunday, all with speakers and guests. Located in central London, the discussions take place in stunning reception rooms – including the famous library, morning room and dining room. The library remains the heart of the club and, as well as being one of the most beautiful rooms in London, it contains the finest collection of travel books in private hands, donated by members over two centuries.

This is the third year in a row we have run the Expert's Weekend, which has proved a resounding success each time.

We will confirm additional speakers in January 2020. A range of guest experts and analysts will be looking at key issues of our times.

Please contact us for further details.

Cost: from £600, excluding accommodation.

Details on request – places are limited.

Experts

Elisabeth Kendall

Elisabeth Kendall is Senior Research Fellow in Arabic and Islamic Studies at Pembroke College, Oxford University. Her current work examines how militant jihadist movements exploit traditional local Arab culture(s). Previously, she held positions at the Universities of Edinburgh and Harvard as well as serving as Director of the Centre for the Advanced Study of the Arab World, a UK government sponsored initiative aimed at building Arabic language-based research expertise.

In addition to lecturing at numerous universities and think tanks around the world, she has been invited to present her research to the following state institutions: House of Commons, House of Lords, FCO, GCHQ, Home Office, MOD, SAS, NATO, US State Department, US Central Command, EU Council and various intelligence and security audiences around the world. She features regularly in the international television, radio and print media, including BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN and various European national broadcasters.

She is the author or (co-)editor of several books, including *ReClaiming Islamic Tradition* (2016), *Twenty-First Century Jihad* (2015) and *Literature, Journalism and the Avant-Garde: Intersection in Egypt* (2006). She also conceived of and edits the “Modern Middle Eastern Vocabularies” series, which includes the titles Security Arabic, Intelligence Arabic and Media Arabic.

Shanker Singham

Shanker Singham chairs the Technical Panel of Prosperity UK’s Alternative Arrangements Commission. He is the CEO of Competere, head of Trade at the Centre for Economics and Business Research, a senior advisor to Huntsworth and Grayling, and Director of the International Trade and Competition Unit at the Institute of Economic Affairs. He is the author of a General Theory of Trade and Competition; Trade Liberalisation and Competitive Markets and a frequent speaker, author and commentator.

Tobias Jones

Tobias Jones is an author, journalist, broadcaster and woodsman. An authority on all aspects of contemporary Italy, he has published both travel books and novels set in the country. He's written and presented documentaries for the BBC and, in Italy, for RAI. He's been a columnist for the Observer and Internazionale and is currently the warden of Windsor Hill Wood, a woodland shelter for people going through a period of crisis in their lives. He writes extensively about communal living and new monasticism, and is known to be passionate about Fabrizio De Andre, Ross MacDonald, carpentry, bee-keeping and pig-rearing. His ambition is to produce his own woodland ham to rival Parma ham.

Tobias is the author of four works of non-fiction, including the bestselling *The Dark Heart of Italy* and *Blood on the Altar* and three crime novels set in Italy. His latest book *Ultra* was published this year. Italy's ultras are the most organised and violent fans in European football. Many groups have evolved into criminal gangs, involved in ticket-touting, drug-dealing and murder. A cross between the Hells Angels and hooligans, they're often the foot-soldiers of the Mafia and have been instrumental in the rise of the far-right.

A former columnist for the Observer and Internazionale, he writes regularly for the British, American and Italian press. He plays football for the England writers football team, and has taught writing and journalism at a variety of universities, prisons and charities.

Experts

Charlie Gammell

Charlie Gammell is an historian of Afghanistan and Iran who specialises in Iran-Afghan history and relations between those two countries. Educated at Oxford and Cambridge, his MPhil thesis looked at the development of Shia political ideology through studying religious sects in Iran's Constitutional Revolution.

He has worked in Afghanistan and Iran since 2009, interpreting Farsi and Pashto for the ICRC, advising UNESCO on cultural and historical projects, and carrying out research for a book on the history of the city of Herat. The book, to be published by Hurst & Co. in 2016, is entitled *The Pearl of Khorasan: Herat from Chingiz Khan to Ismail Khan*. It traces the city's history from the arrival of the Mongols in 1221 to the present day. It seeks to place Herat in its historical context as a disputed city with Iranian and Afghan influences, but one that is very now much firmly situated in the Afghan state.

He has been published in *Asian Affairs* on Herat's place in a modern Afghanistan, and has contributed to the *Afghan Analysts Network* on Herat's recent history.

Bob Paduchik

Co-Chairman at Republican National Committee

Robert Paduchik is an accomplished strategist with three decades of experience leading political and public affairs campaigns. Most recently served as the Ohio State Director for the Trump-Pence presidential campaign. Notably he ran Ohio for George W. Bush in both 2000 and 2004. He was the Campaign Manager for Ohio Senator Rob Portman's successful campaign for U.S. Senate in 2010, and was the Ohio State Director for the Bush-Cheney presidential campaign, helping President Bush carry the state both times. He is recognized by many political professionals as one of the "outstanding campaign managers in America" and an expert in Ohio politics.

Bob has gained extensive experience managing public affairs campaigns in the energy, telecommunications, and chemical industries. He is a proven leader of multi-million dollar initiatives both nationally and at the state level. From 2011 through 2015, Bob worked in a variety of roles at the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity, a trade association representing the coal-fueled electricity industry. From October 2001 to January 2003, Bob served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs at the U.S. Department of Energy.