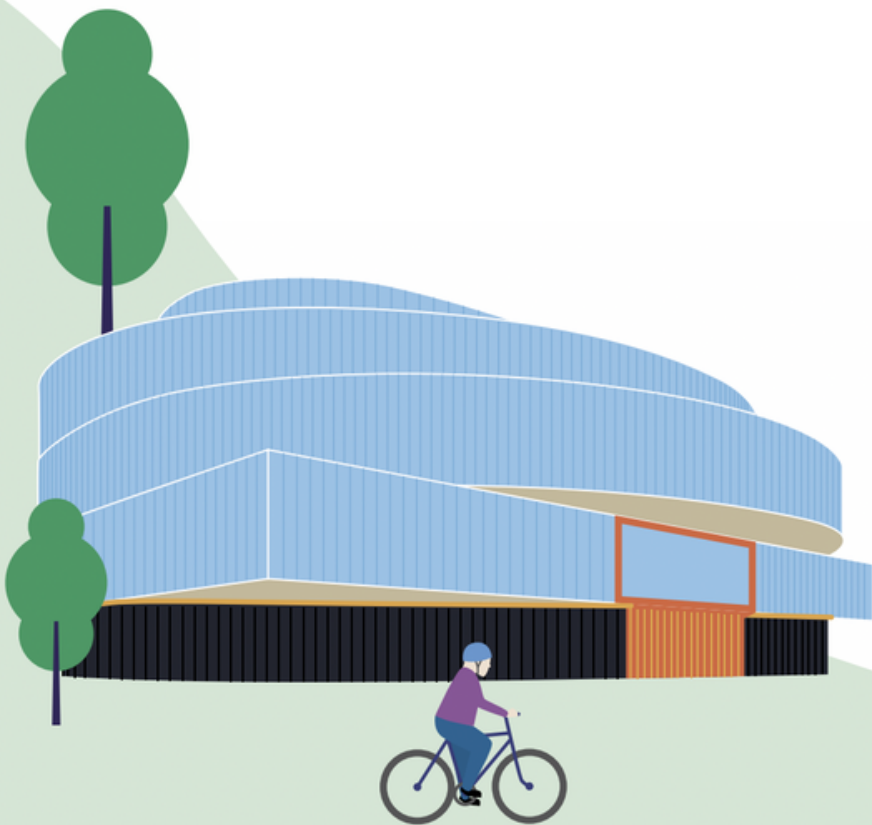


Social Outcomes Conference 2023

Delegate Pack

14-15 September 2023

Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford



Welcome to SOC23

Thank you for joining us for the sixth edition of the Social Outcomes Conference #SOC23.

We've designed SOC23 as an open and inclusive forum for learning, constructive challenge and, importantly, to celebrate success. We hope that over the two days of the conference you will have the chance to deepen your knowledge, share your work and inspire others, make new connections, and forge new collaborations. Whether you are joining us from a non-profit organisation working at the frontline, a government department seeking to understand how to bring a focus on outcomes to public services, or a research institute with valuable evidence to share, we are confident that the conference can be insightful to your work.

We've got an incredible programme for SOC23 - including a keynote address by one of the world's most prominent social policy scholars, a book launch, and a closing public talk with a figure whose service and outstanding contributions to public life span five decades. To make the most of SOC23, do familiarise yourself with the programme in advance, especially as we will be running concurrent sessions, and join in the social activities!

The conference sits at the heart of our mission to build bridges between academia and policy for better social outcomes. It reflects our commitment to inclusive evidence-building and open knowledge-sharing. This is why it is a huge privilege and joy for the GO Lab team to welcome you to SOC23.

Best wishes,
Andreea Anastasiu
Executive Director, GO Lab



About the Government Outcomes Lab

The Government Outcomes Lab (GO Lab) at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford is a global centre of expertise for outcomes-based partnerships.

Established in 2016 through a partnership between the University of Oxford and the UK Government, the mission of the GO Lab is to enable governments across the world to foster effective cross-sector partnerships for better social outcomes.

You can find out more about our research, data and engagement work at <https://golab.bsg.ox.ac.uk>.



Conference Information

This delegate pack provides key information to guide you throughout the conference. More information is available on various online materials linked to throughout the pack. For any further questions, contact us at golab@bsg.ox.ac.uk.

Venue

SOC23 is on 14-15 September 2023 at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford

Address:

120 Walton Street
Oxford OX2 6AH
United Kingdom

Attending SOC23 in-person

We recommend arriving on Wednesday 13 September and departing on Saturday 16 September to allow for meeting fellow delegates beforehand at our annual Pub Quiz and attending our Closing Celebration & Remarks.

Virtual attendance

We are curating a highly interactive hybrid programme. If you registered to join us online, you will receive by email the passcode to reveal the Zoom credentials in due course.

Social Media

Connect via our LinkedIn and Twitter to keep up to date with the wider community attending SOC. Tag us with #SOC23

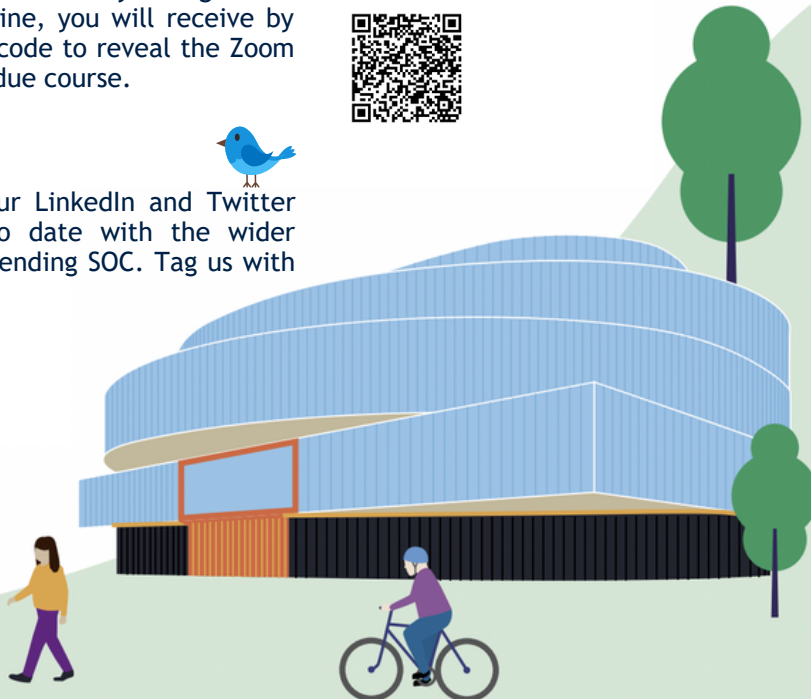
Inclusivity

We value diversity and inclusion and are committed to creating a conference where the rich intersection of different voices and backgrounds are prioritised. We encourage involvement from individuals and organisations representing a range of backgrounds spanning ethnic, cultural, geographical, age, and income differences.

Catering

Several meals are included in the delegate fee for in-person tickets including lunch on Thursday and Friday, dinner on Thursday and a drinks reception and nibbles on Friday evening. Please contact the team for any dietary restrictions.

Check out our full FAQ page:



Venue Map

Basement Floor

Blavatnik School of Government



Day 1 Programme

Scan the QR code or
[click here for the full agenda](#)



08:30	Registration opens			
09:15	Welcome remarks: Dr Mara Airoidi, Andreea Anastasiu, Dr Eleanor Carter			
09:30	Keynote address by Professor Mark Considine and panel discussion <i>Understanding the 'eleven secret herbs and spices' - how do we improve effectiveness in multi-agent public services?</i> Lecture Theatre 1			
11:15	Break			
11:45	Deep dive 1.1 Comparative perspectives on building sustainable ecosystems for social outcomes contracting Lecture Theatre 1	Deep dive 1.2 Procuring outcomes - still knotty? Tun Razak Lecture Theatre	Deep dive 1.3 Participatory approaches in research and implementation of services and public policies Seminar Rooms 1&2	
13:15	Lunch			
14:15	Deep dive 1.4 Public sector reform: insights from the Life Chances Fund & beyond Lecture Theatre 1	Deep dive 1.5 The greatest goals - procuring sustainability at the edge of our ability Tun Razak Lecture Theatre	Deep dive 1.6 Navigating collaborative governance - strategies, dynamics and impact Seminar Rooms 1&2	Deep dive 1.7 Pursuing better social outcomes in fragile and conflict - affected states Seminar Rooms 3&4
15:45	Break			
16:15	Big Picture: Firming up the handshake: exploring the potential of formal relational contracting in the public sector Lecture Theatre 1			
18:00	Book Launch: Social Economy Science - transforming the economy and making society more resilient Inamori Forum			
19:00	Networking Dinner			



Keynote address by Professor Mark Considine

Understanding the ‘eleven secret herbs and spices’

How do we improve effectiveness in multi-agent public services?

Professor Mark Considine is Professor of Political Science at the University of Melbourne. In his keynote address, Professor Considine will draw on his award-winning research on public sector reform, new methods of governance and the street-level delivery of public programmes, to share reflections on the challenges facing public-private models of service delivery. Professor Considine will highlight potential reform pathways for addressing these issues. He will explain why, to improve multi-agent public services, it is important to re-think regulatory relations, strengthen knowledge networks and engage service users in problem-solving.



Professor Mark Considine
University of Melbourne

Panel discussion:



Dr Eleanor Carter
University of Oxford
Session Chair



Amal Johal
Big Society Capital



Ben Jupp
NHS England



Dr Ole Helby Petersen
Roskilde University



Dr Joe Abah
DAI Global



Day 1 Sessions

Deep dive 1.1 Comparative perspectives on building sustainable ecosystems for social outcomes contracting

In this session we will take stock of efforts in different social, economic, and political contexts around the world to develop or strengthen system-level conditions for the development of social outcomes contracts. We will ask: what are the structural barriers limiting the adoption of outcomes-based contracting in the provision of public services? What can we learn from the experience so far? How can we move from pilot to ecosystem when it comes to social outcomes contracting?

Session Chair: Chih Hoong Sin

Speakers: Raffaella De Felice (Global Steering Group), Ruben Koekoek (Social Finance NL), Fernando Domingos (EAESP/FGV), Samar Bajaj (Michael & Susan Dell Foundation), Kanu Maeda (Cabinet Office, Japan), Ian Dewae (University of Applied Sciences Ghent), Maria Paulina Gómez (Fundación Corona)

Deep dive 1.2 Procuring outcomes - still knotty?

Outcomes can be knotty for public procurement, but are we learning to untangle ourselves? Procuring social services on an outcomes basis is different for procurement, legal, and contract management professionals more accustomed to buying activities or short term outputs. This session explores practical approaches to the opportunities and challenges of outcomes-based contracts from these professionals' perspectives.

Session Chair: Prof Anne Davies (Oxford Law Faculty)

Speakers: Ruairi Macdonald (University of Oxford), Prof Simon Collinson (University of Birmingham), Russ Wood (Latitude Network), Maria Lungu (Florida Atlantic University), Jonathan Bland (E3M), Jamie Veitch (E3M), Julian Blake (Stone King), André Quadra (Sciences Po), Fabiola Conti (Sciences Po), Shira Tzachor (JDC Israel), Yehonatan Almog (PMO, Israel), Mohit Bahri (GDi Partners), Madhunika Iyer (GDi Partners)

Deep dive 1.3 Participatory approaches in research and implementation of services and public policies

Public management and policy have seen a push for re-focusing on the involvement of users in the design and implementation of services and public policies in recent years. The underpinning notion is to mitigate structural power imbalances by giving a voice to the people most affected. This allows to enhance the user-centredness of the service/policy and improve its social outcomes.

Session Chair: Vanessa Lefton (Policy Lab)

Speakers: Mohammed Hassan (Refugee Led Research Hub), Prof Gary Painter (University of Cincinnati), Macarena Cea (Fundación Luksic), Sunny Dhadley FRSA (SUIT), Patsy Kraeger (California State University, Bakersfield), Victoria Busby (Kirklees Better Outcomes Partnerships)

Scan the QR code or
[click here for the full agenda](#)



Day 1 Sessions

Scan the QR code or
[click here for the full agenda](#)



Deep dive 1.4 Public sector reform: insights from the Life Chances Fund & beyond

This session will draw on the Life Chances Fund (LCF) and beyond for effective, real-life project-level learnings about what works alongside a rich set of insights that speak to wider public sector provision challenges. We will bring together the lived experience of the LCF projects with insights generated through the evaluation work, to explore how the evidence coming out of the LCF can inform public sector reform efforts.

Session Chair: Kathy Hall (Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford)

Speakers: Aman Johal (Big Society Capital), James Magowan (UK Government), Val Keen (UK Government), Dr Eleanor Carter (University of Oxford), Lee Whitehead (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Deep dive 1.5 The greatest goals - procuring sustainability at the edge of our ability

Facing severe social and environmental challenges, we demand great things from our public procurement systems. Increasingly, social and environmental outcomes are pursued through government contracts at all levels of government. This session will explore practical opportunities and challenges of implementing wider policy goals through contracts, including recent experiences of procurement professionals working to mitigating climate change.

Session Chair: Prof Jane Lynch (Cardiff University)

Speakers: Ruairi Macdonald (University of Oxford), Dr Abby Semple (Public Procurement Analysis), Dr Steven Parker (Open University)

Deep dive 1.6 Navigating collaborative governance - strategies, dynamics and impact

Collaborative governance between public and private sector stakeholders has emerged as a central tool to respond to complex societal problems. This panel will delve into key aspects of this evolving field. Panellists will discuss how collaborative governance can drive innovation, foster trust and enhance decision-making for better outcomes in public service provision. It will also highlight the approach's challenges around organisational differences and values, power imbalances, and high transactions costs. The panel will explore strategies for implementing collaborative governance mechanisms, as well as the dynamics and impact of such an approach.

Session Chair: David Van Slyke (Syracuse University)

Speakers: Tomas Bokström (RISE Research Institute of Sweden), Brian Ohl (Syracuse University), Dr Benedetta Trivellato (University of Milano-Bicocca), Guy Neale (PA Consulting), Vincenzo Buffa (University of Angers)

Deep dive 1.7 Pursuing better social outcomes in fragile and conflict-affected states

Fragile and conflict-affected states often lack consistent public service provision, and struggle to respond to the needs of their populations. Support from external organisations is therefore common, in the form of financial aid, service delivery, and/or administration. What makes for an effective partnership in contexts that are by definition high-risk and subject to instability? This session seeks answers to this question, drawing from case examples of cross-sector, multi-scale, service partnerships in fragile settings.

Session Chair: Dr Harry Bregazzi (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Diwa Samad (The Global Fund), Simon Meldrum (IFRC), Jalil Hazboun (Finance for Jobs Consulting Services), Louise Savell (Social Finance)

Big Picture: Firming up the handshake - exploring the potential of formal relational contracting in the public sector

In this session, we will draw on the latest insights from research, policy and practice to explore how a formal relational approach to public-private partnerships seeking to resolve complex social problems might prove more fruitful. We will begin by hearing the latest insights from a forthcoming book, which examines the lessons we can learn from two contrasting case studies in the UK and US. We will then turn to an expert panel of academics, practitioners and policymakers to explore the broader benefits and challenges that may arise in trying to adopt such an approach to public contracting.

Session Chair: Dr Felix-Anselm van Lier (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Michael Gibson (University of Oxford), Dr Eleanor Carter (University of Oxford), Prof Carolyn Heinrich (Vanderbilt University), Maria-Laura Crespo (Ministry of Social Development, NZ), Prof Tim Cummins (World Commerce and Contracting), Dr Fareed Abdullah (South African Medical Research Council), Prof David Van Slyke (Syracuse University), James Magowan (UK Government), Liam Sloan (Public Digital)

Book Launch: Social Economy Science - transforming the economy and making society more resilient

Edited by Gorgi Krlev, Dominika Wruk, Giulio Pasi, and Marika Bernhard, the book brings together cutting-edge research on a suite of important questions such as: How can social entrepreneurship and social innovation play an essential role in addressing persistent societal problems, including the challenge of creating more democratic, equitable and participatory forms of organising? How can impact investing and social outcomes contracting by governments change the ways in which we think about funding the common good? The book includes contributions from leading scholars and practitioners in the field, including Geoff Mulgan, Julie Battilana, Mario Calderini, and GO Lab's own Eleanor Carter.

Session Chair: Prof Mario Calderini (Politecnico di Milano School of Management)

Speakers: Dr Mara Airoldi (University of Oxford), Dr Eleanor Carter (University of Oxford), Dr Gorgi Krlev (ESCP Business School), Bayo Adelaja (Do it Now Now)

Day 2 Programme



Scan the QR code or
[click here for the full agenda](#)



07:00	Oxford landmarks run (starts at Radcliffe Camera)		
08:00	Registration opens		
09:15	Deep dive 2.1 Challenges of measurement & evaluation in outcomes-based contracts Seminar Rooms 1&2	Deep dive 2.2 Strength in depth, harnessing collaboration and local knowledge Tun Razak Lecture Theatre	Deep dive 2.3 Bold & bright: learning from innovative global practice in social outcomes contracts Lecture Theatre 1
11:00	Break		
11:15	Big Picture: Putting the puzzle together - piecing together data and evidence in outcomes-based contracting Lecture Theatre 1		
12:45	Social impact poster gallery Inamori Forum		
13:15	Lunch		
14:00	Deep dive 2.4 Investing in mental health and disability: how outcomes-focused financing can support and advocate for systematic change Lecture Theatre 1	Deep dive 2.5 What is in a measurement? Insights and perspectives for measuring social outcomes Seminar Rooms 1&2	Deep dive 2.6. Integrating environmental and social outcomes in cross-sector partnerships Tun Razak Lecture Theatre
15:30	Break		
15:45	Big Picture: Turning the oil tanker - can outcomes-based partnership really catalyse lasting change? Lecture Theatre 1		
17:30	Public Talk: Dame Margaret Hodge in conversation with Professor Carolyn Heinrich Inamori Forum		
18:45	SOC23 Closing celebration gala		

Day 2 Sessions

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Deep dive 2.1 Challenges of measurement & evaluation in outcomes-based contracts

Most programme evaluations focus on evaluating the impact of a specific intervention. Trying to evaluate a partnership model or contracting mechanism brings with it a whole new set of challenges, not least in trying to disentangle the impact of the contracting mechanism from the impact of the intervention itself. Evaluations of SOCs tend therefore to be qualitative, subjective and rely strongly on evaluator interpretation. This makes their conclusions open to critique, and it can be challenging to defend evaluation findings when stakeholders within the programmes don't agree with the findings. In this session, we will reflect on the approaches and challenges adopted in evaluating SOCs over the last decade, and ways to overcome these challenges.

Session Chair: Dr Eleanor Carter (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Prof Maren Duvendack (University of East Anglia), Dr Thea Shahrokh (NSPCC), James Ronicle (Ecorys), Kenekwku Nwagbo (University of Cambridge), Rajeshwari Balasubramaniam (Niiti Consulting), Meena Vaidyanathan (Niiti Consulting), Tommaso Tropeano (Politecnico di Milano)

Deep dive 2.2 Strength in depth, harnessing collaboration and local knowledge

This session will examine the strength that collaboration can bring to delivering outcomes for people. It will open with two discussions of collaboration method, with a brief discussion of a new playbook for cross-sector collaboration followed by a more in-depth discussion of cultivating wisdom for effective collaboration in public health.

Session Chair: Baroness Jo Valentine (BITC)

Speakers: Jo Blundell (Future Public), Emily Sun (Place Matters), Anna Powell (Collaboration for Impact, Australia), Mila Lukic (Bridges Outcomes Partnerships), Prof Chris Fox (MMU), Celeste Brubaker (Village Enterprise), Caroline Bernadi (Village Enterprise), Dr Jane Gaukroger (Cultivating Wisdom Limited), Dr Sabena Y Jameel (University of Birmingham Medical School), Mike Davis (Davis Pier), Ian Taylor (University of Oxford)

Deep dive 2.3 Bold & bright: learning from innovative global practice in social outcomes contracts

This session will be an opportunity to learn about the impact and lessons learnt from pioneering social outcomes programmes from around the world. We will bring together a group of projects from countries as diverse as Australia, South Africa, Sierra Leone, India and Japan, to explore implementation challenges, adaptations required and the value of collaborative working.

Session Chair: Abha Thorat-Shah (British Asian Trust)

Speakers: Jessica Reedy (University of Oxford), Carl Bakker (G-Fund Limited), Anushree Parekh (British Asian Trust), Ali Inam (Bridges Outcomes Partnerships), Sophie Holloway (Office of Social Impact Investment, NSW, Australia), Dr Nevilene Slingers (South African Medical Research Council), Reiji Ikeda (Ministry of Justice of Japan), David Parks (The Skill Mill)

Big Picture: Putting the puzzle together - piecing together data and evidence in Outcomes-Based Contracting

Join us for an exploration of a rich tapestry of new and diverse data sources and tools in outcomes-based contracting. We will showcase the power of the GO Lab's [SyROCCo machine learning tool](#) to synthesise high-level ex-post data from an extensive collection of academic and grey literature and how it links to the Impact Bond Dataset offered by INDIGO; we will delve into new outcome data visualisations from Life Chances Fund projects; and discover groundbreaking approaches to granular data collection at the service-user level.

Session Chair: Louise Savell (Social Finance)

Speakers: Juliana Outes Velarde (University of Oxford), Dr Felix-Anselm van Lier (University of Oxford), Benoit Renard (Triggerise), Dr Ailsa Cook (Matter of Focus), Tom Neill (Time to Spare), Dale Renner (Latitude Network)

Deep dive 2.4 Investing in mental health and disability: how outcomes-focused innovative financing can support and advocate for systematic change

In this panel we will examine recent evidence from academic evaluations as well as hear practical insights on how to design and evaluate mental health outcome-based contracting from outcome funders, the voluntary sector, and not-for-profits. We hope the lessons learned from these key initiatives will unlock investment and be a part of the world-wide call-to-action to re-prioritise our mental health and wellbeing.

Session Chair: Emily Hulse (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Richard Johnson (Healthy Brains Global Initiative), Dr Lars Hartenstein (McKinsey & Company), Shayla Smith (University of Washington), Dr Niamh Lally (Genio), Dr John A. Healy (Genio), Tanyah Hameed (Social Finance), Dr Andrea Feigl (Health Finance Institute)

Deep dive 2.5 What is in a measurement? Insights and perspectives for measuring social outcomes

Measurements are often assumed to be perfect windows into social outcomes, but are they? Join our engaging roundtable on social outcomes measurements, where we investigate this theme from multiple perspectives. In this session we will explore questions such as: (1) What is value in outcome-based contracting?, (2) What are the main challenges in choosing the right measurements?, (3) How do social measurements change a contract's power balance?, and (4) How could social outcome measurement improve the generation of public value of outcomes-based contracts?

Session Chair: Dr Elaine De Gruyter (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Neil Stanworth (ATQ Consultants), Dr Mara Airoidi (University of Oxford), Jeffrey Matsu (CIPFA), Lindsey Poole (Advice Services Alliance), Madeleine Parkinson (Advice Services Alliance), Paul Neave (Welsh Government) Dr Kath Edgar (Substance), Dr Johannes Langer (Substance), Charlie Grosset (Substance)

Day 2 Sessions

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Deep dive 2.6. Integrating environmental and social outcomes in cross-sector partnerships

Mitigating and adapting to climate change requires that actors in all policy areas integrate 'green' goals into their programmes. As such, environmental concerns are brought alongside social aims, from employment, to health, to childcare. How can social and environmental priorities be effectively combined in the design of cross-sector partnership, and what are the key considerations and challenges that need to be addressed?

Session Chair: Dr Harry Bregazzi (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Ben Stephens (Instiglio), Sophie Emler (Bridges Outcomes Partnerships), Maya Tira (Audencia Business School), Dr Diane-Laure Arjaliès (Ivey Business School), Kieron Boyle (Impact Investing Institute)

Big Picture: Turning the oil tanker - can outcomes-based partnership really catalyse lasting change

The potential legacy that a well-designed outcomes partnership can achieve is often articulated in terms of 'system strengthening' - positive impacts within a service system beyond the immediate person-level outcome targets of the programme. In this session, we will investigate and seek clarity about the relationship between outcomes-based contracting and system strengthening - what it is, how we pursue it, and the evidence by which we assess it. We will connect these questions to the latest learning from practice, to better understand how system-level goals are conceived and pursued in case examples.

Session Chair: Andreea Anastasiu (University of Oxford)

Speakers: Dr Harry Bregazzi (University of Oxford), Jonathan Ng (USAID), Abhik Sen (Commonwealth Secretariat), Caroline Bernadi (Village Enterprise), Jessica Davies (Social Finance), Milena Castellnou (Education Outcomes Fund), Stephen Chandler (Education Outcomes Fund)

Public Talk: Dame Margaret Hodge in conversation with Professor Carolyn Heinrich

In this public talk, Professor Carolyn Heinrich (George Eastman Visiting Professor 2022-23, University of Oxford and University Distinguished Professor, Vanderbilt University), will be hosting a discussion with Dame Margaret Hodge, who has over five decades of experience in public service. This public talk is a timely discussion, aimed at helping reconcile collaboration and accountability in a way that can inform better practice.

Dame Margaret Hodge has been the Labour Member of Parliament for Barking and the heart of Dagenham since 1994. She has held several government positions in the last Labour government, holding portfolios across education, work and pensions, business and culture. In 2010 she became the first woman elected Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, serving until 2015.

Moderator: Prof Carolyn Heinrich (Vanderbilt University)

More exciting events!

Aside from the social impact poster gallery and book launch, there are a few more exciting activities in store for those attending in person!



Pub Quiz

Join us on the evening of Wednesday 13th for our annual pre-conference Pub Quiz. Hosted by Michael and Juliana, this is the perfect chance to have a taste of British pub culture, and what could be more Oxford-y than doing a quiz for fun? Whether you've been before or it's your first time, this is a great chance to meet (& compete with) fellow attendees & our GO Lab team.

Oxford Landmarks Run

Stay active during the conference and discover some of Oxford's most iconic landmarks by joining us on an easy morning run on Day 2 of SOC23. We will start the run at the [Radcliffe Camera](#), in the very heart of Oxford. This will start at 7am (sharp) and last half an hour, led by our very own Executive Director.



Networking

On top of this programme of supplementary events, wider networking opportunities will be available across SOC23, including times of structured and unstructured networking throughout the conference days.



Closing Celebration Gala

We are excited to announce a celebratory ending and closing remarks with moments of community, insights, and connection. Join us for drinks, nibbles, music, and reflections for this final celebration in our beautiful venue. Join us 6:45pm-9:00pm for the end of SOC23.



GO Lab's Oxford Recommendations

Coming in-person? Make the most of this beautiful city by enjoying some of our team's top recommendations.



FELIX RECOMMENDS

Go to the Norrington Room at Blackwell's Bookshop

JULIANA RECOMMENDS

The Divinity School is really nice, and the entry price is not so high (if you go with a GO Labber, you get in for free!)



SRINITHYA RECOMMENDS

Knoops - for hot chocolate



FRANZI RECOMMENDS

Go punting! Or to The Punter pub



JESS RECOMMENDS

Get to a pub! I'd recommend The Perch for countryside vibes, The Chester Arms for a roast & Turf Tavern for an atmospheric pint!

MATHEUS RECOMMENDS

A guided walking-tour around the city is really nice



→ 13
→ 13 A
→ 14
→ 14 A

FILM NEGATIVE
FILM NEGATIVE
FILM NEGATIVE



IAN RECOMMENDS

Go to Ramen Kulture for a meal



FILM NEGATIVE



GLORIA RECOMMENDS

Pop by Cowley if you are seeking a more vibrant experience. Cowley Road has a variety of restaurants serving a wide range of cuisines including African at Heat & Turkish at Antwerp



ANDREEA RECOMMENDS

The Old Bookbinders Pub (not far from where SOC23 will be!)



FILM NEGATIVE



MICHAEL RECOMMENDS

See the Oxford sights! A trip to Oxford isn't complete without seeing the Radcliffe Camera, Bodleian Library & a few colleges - especially Christ Church & Magdalen (they're clichés for a reason!)

MADHU RECOMMENDS

The Footprints tour!



NIKKI RECOMMENDS

The Vaults and Garden for a nice brunch & view of the Rad Cam



> 13

> 13 A

> 14

> 14 A

New to Outcomes-based Contracting?

We've prepared some introductory materials for those encountering outcomes-based contracting for the first time. This should help you manoeuvre through some of the technical jargon you might hear during SOC23 sessions.

What is outcomes-based contracting?

Outcomes-based contracting is a mechanism whereby service providers are contracted based on the achievement of outcomes. This can entail tying outcomes into the contract and/or linking payments to the achievement of outcomes. In international development, these approaches are more commonly referred to as results-based financing.

What is an impact bond?

Impact bonds are outcome-based contracts that incorporate the use of private funding from investors to cover the upfront capital required for a provider to set up and deliver a service. The service is set out to achieve measurable outcomes established by the commissioning authority (or outcome payer) and the investor is repaid only if these outcomes are achieved. Impact bonds encompass both social impact bonds and development impact bonds.

Read more of the basics:



Check out key terms in our glossary:



Who are the key partners in an impact bond?

Outcome payer

Identifies beneficiaries, defines payable outcomes, pays for achieved outcomes

Beneficiaries

Service provider

Works with beneficiaries to achieve outcomes

Investor

Provides upfront funding for the service provider



More from the GO Lab



Take a look at INDIGO, our International Network for Data on Impact and Government Outcomes to discover the global social outcomes landscape.



Contact the SOC23 Team



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For any questions or more information about our work and how to get involved, you can get in touch with us at golab@bsg.ox.ac.uk or call us at 00 44 1865 614323.



Join one of our peer learning groups to gain rich insights from our communities of practice.



Explore our cutting-edge AI tool for policymakers & researchers interested in social outcomes



Read the latest research in the field in our Resource Library



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