



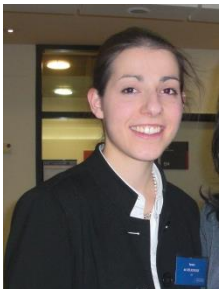
Franco British Connections

July 2013

NEWSLETTER

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The Franco-British Connections



The hard work and dedication of students in Paris and in London throughout the year allowed the Franco-British Connections to come back with a number of successful events in 2012 and 2013. The recruiting events that were conducted in both countries at the beginning of the year attracted members from a wide range of universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, King's, LSE, Imperial College and UCL in the UK, and the Ecole Polytechnique, Sciences Po, HEC, ESSEC, ENA, Assas, ENS and the Sorbonne in France. While each country's team set up its own events, the Franco-British Finance Summit in March 2013 required the joint forces of both countries' teams and ended up being a real success. The

same type of event is currently in the planning phase for 2014 and will be themed around the anniversary of the Entente Cordiale between France and the England. We are hoping for our membership to expand at the start of the new year and we are more determined than ever for this year to be another great success.

Past events have included student conferences with students from both France and Britain, online essay competitions, debates on Franco-British themes, lectures and alumni reunions. You will be able to find more information on our activities and how to join us at www.fb-connections.org

Isaura de Zélicourt, general secretary of the FB-Connections



What Happened in Paris in 2012/13

Several events have taken place in Paris. While the Franco-British Finance Summit brought students from both countries together, other events such as the Cordial Debate.

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What Happened in London in 2012/13

The team in London was heavily involved in the preparation of the Finance Summit but other events were also very successful: the conference on the communication of Social and Scientific research attracted distinguished speakers and students from all over London.

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The Franco-British Finance Summit in Paris



On the 15-16th of March 2013, the Franco-British organised a joint French-UK event comparing the financial sectors of both countries. This event was organised by ESSEC (one of the top business schools in France) and many of the other top universities in France and Great-Britain (including Oxford, Cambridge, LSE, Imperial College and UCL in the UK, Assas, Ecole Polytechnique, Sciences Po, HEC, ESSEC, ENS and the Sorbonne in France).

For this weekend, over 80 students came together for two days of keynote speeches, networking, discussion workshops and evening entertainment. The highlight of the event was a reception in the beautiful Salons of the "Residence de l'Ambassadeur", hosted by H.E. Sir Peter Rickett, Ambassador of Great-Britain and Northern Ireland to France.

Students were addressed by Mr. Pierre Tapie (President of the Conférence des Grandes Ecoles), and Sir Howard Davies (former Director of the LSE and former executive Chairman of the FSA), who gave their views on the financial sectors of France and Great-Britain. Following

this, students were involved in one of 6 workshops along with 10-15 other students in which they discussed one of the proposed themes on our website with senior academics, public figures and industry participants. All discussions were held in English.

The outcomes of the project

After the conference, a student from each workshop was in charge of writing a short document with the outcome of the group's discussion as well as a policy recommendation when possible. The Student's feedback was very positive and while 85% of students said that the event met or exceeded their expectations, students very much appreciated the quality of the workshops and speakers as well as the more prestigious events such as the afternoon at the Ambassador's Residence.

In order to successfully lead this event, a number of sponsors have helped us and deserve a special mention: ESSEC Business School, The British Embassy in Paris, The Institut Francais in the UK and Allianz Kulturstiftung, without whom this event would not have been possible.

OUTLOOK ON THE CONFERENCE



A number of different issues

The finance Summit took place over two days and students tackled a number of different issues such as the potential effects of tax harmonization, the benefits of happiness indices versus financial indices to evaluate a country's performance or the impact of the Euro on French and British Financial Sectors.



Sir Peter Rickett at the Embassy

Sir Ricketts addressed students in the Embassy on his experience as an Ambassador of Great Britain to France and on the importance of the ever growing political and economic linkages between France and the UK.



Pierre Tapie at ESSEC CNIT Campus

The Comparative Conference in London



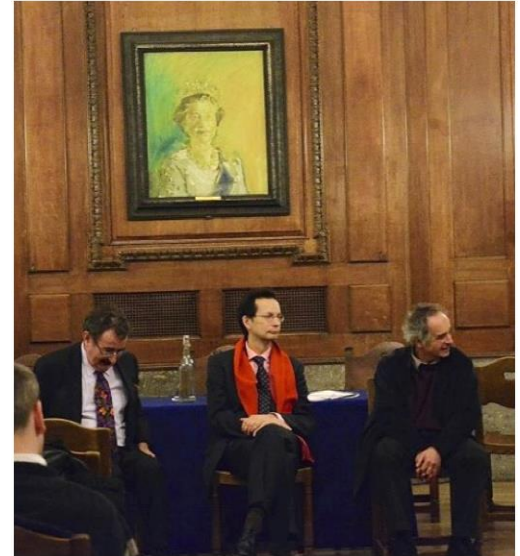
On the 14th January, the Franco-British Connections had the pleasure of hosting their first event of 2013 in Goodenough College. The event, entitled 'The Communication of Social and Scientific Research in France and the UK', gave an insight on how research is transmitted from an academic setting to the general public, and it was a great opportunity for students to explore and analyse the ways in which these communication methods vary between the cross-channel neighbours, namely France and the UK.

The first speaker was Professor Bloch, who researches anthropology at the London School of Economics and the Ecole Normale Supérieure. Prof. Bloch brought up outlined the particular relationship between social science research and the wider public in France, amongst others thanks to the French Education system, which is geared and inclined towards philosophy; but also due to the presence of an important intellectual French community, ranging from politicians to members of the press, which makes it more inclusive and relevant to the population.

Next was Professor Valls-Gabaud, who used to be the deputy director at the Observatoire de Paris, and now continues to pursue his astronomy research interests there.. Professor Valls-Gabaud gave a very extensive overview of the communication of science, more

precisely astronomy, in France. He also put forward some ideas for improvement, mainly directed at improving the science learning experience for children.

Lastly, Professor Lord Winston professor at the Imperial College School of Medicine, and presenter of several successful and award winning BBC documentaries explained his views on the communication of science from a medical and political point of view, and again highlighted several areas of improvement in the domain of education.



Lord Winston, Professor Valls-Gabaud and Professor Bloch

Révolte-Toi debates in London

For a few hours on 20 March, the occupants of the Salon of the Institut Français were transported to the late 18th century to observe a battle of wits between rival groups of the Assemblée: the Montagnards and the Girondins. The two teams aimed to convince a prestigious panel of judges as to whether Europe should tax laziness or not, with the Montagnards defending the proposition and the Girondins in opposition. The timekeeper's introduction included a philosophical exposition on time, and of course the importance of staying within its boundaries during a debate.



Francesca Cartier (LSE), Cara Goldthorpe (UCL), Maris Blanchet (UCL), Stéphane Daniel (LSE)

The Franco-British Pub Debate

Two teams of three debaters representing two nations; Britain and France, opposed each other to defend their favorite drink. The debate, given its gastronomic theme, was held at Patrick's Le Ballon Vert, a typically Celtic Pub, which served as the perfect setting for this contentious debate.



We recognized that this debate could become heated, so to cool any ferocious rivalry, a beer and wine tasting were offered on site, in moderation, we hasten to add!

Video of the event:

http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x109p62_2nd-franco-british-student-debate-on-cultural-differences_news?start=1

The Square Debate on Energy in Europe

What is this new Square Debate on energy in Europe? France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Russia got together to debate and put the question of renewable energies and supplies into European perspective. The students taking part delivered an impressive, and at times challenging performance. This debate, which is currently of major concern in Europe, was punctuated by topics such as the Neighborhood policy, renewable energies and democratic considerations.



The square debates deal with European Political Issues and aim to trigger students at an intellectual level. They compete on an ideological as well as rhetorical level.

Video of the event: <http://www.fb-connections.org/square-debate-on-energy-in-europe/>

Future Events

There are several events that are due to take place in the coming year and that are promising to be as successful as the ones in 2012-2013. Once again, these will take place in both France and the UK and sometimes event in both locations simultaneously. So here are a few events that you can look forward to for this year.

The main event that will foster further collaboration between our two countries will be the 2014 Franco –British Summit organized around the theme of National Defense, International Relations (Europe and the rest of the World) and conflict resolution, to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Entente Cordiale (4th of April) as well as the commemoration of the start of the First World War 100 years ago.

While this event is going to require most of our focus, other events will take place in Paris and London throughout the year for the Summit. Our members and followers are warmly invited to participate in these debates and conferences.

The team **in France** will focus on two main events:

- A Cordial Debate
- A Square Debate on the rise of Extremism in Europe

The team **in the UK** will supervise two events:

- A conference on Trade Relation at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London. Save the date, 22th November TBC.
- A Francophone Debate at the University of Oxford

Contacts

We are always looking to recruit team members and to come up with new opportunities. If you would like to get involved or contribute to our projects, please contact:

- The student team: contact@fb-connections.org

You are also more than welcome to look at our website as well as our Facebook page:

- www.fb-connections.org
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Franco-British-Connections/100916740023298>