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LISA Newsletter



LSE

THE LONDON SCHOOL  
OF ECONOMICS AND  
POLITICAL SCIENCE ■

## In this edition

### Activities

Read more about LISA's recent activities at the LSE campus. Details on Page 4-5.

### Events

LISA invites you to join us for LISA social – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the Old Bank of England, Fleet Street London starting 645pm

### Getting Involved

Looking to get involved in LISA activities? Get in touch with us. Our contact details are on page 5.

## Our Man in the North Pole

*By Charles Wahab*

It's high noon, and I am standing in Spitalfields Square. It's zero degrees in London today and I can barely feel the rain droplets on my almost frozen nose. I've grown to love the London weather: it's like thinning hair, there's little you can do about it, might as well embrace it. Whilst the wind blows on my bald spot, a shiver goes down my spine, not because of an East London daft, but of the thought of someone in their right mind would want to trek to the North Pole. I am meeting a fellow LSE Information Systems graduate, who's about to do just that.

Chris Eglin graduated from LSE in 1994 and has had an interesting journey since. Interesting is one of the few words that can describe it because his is one certainly not a conventional one if there is such a thing. He may have labeled himself a "wannabe adventurer" but this story goes deeper than thrill seeking. The book cannot be read from the cover.

Chris was a victim of a serious knife attack in 2008 that almost made this story written in the past tense. As many graduates of the LSE, he works in the financial industry. While, on a work assignment in Stuttgart, Germany, walking back to his hotel one night, he was attacked by a drug addict wielding a knife. At the time, Chris had taken 136 flights in 17 months, and was both physically and mentally fragile. Chris had little say, for whether he gave him his money or not the man had intention. Futilely, Chris defended himself and managed to throw him to the ground, yet during the scuffle, he was stabbed 4 times, with one jab missing his heart by a couple of inches. His website [www.testyourcore.com/northwhat](http://www.testyourcore.com/northwhat) has a detailed account of the story that gives it better justice than this article could, or is purposed for. Chris' story begins in the aftermath of the incident, his journey to recovery, and his will to pay back for the people who helped him from the brink.

A few months after the attack, in May 2009, he travelled to the Great Wall of China thinking that he was on the way to recovery. Unbeknownst to him, he was in the full throes of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Oblivious to this, from September 2009, he had started commuting to Amsterdam on a weekly basis for approx 1 year and trying to get back to what he thought would be a normal life.



Then PTSD kicked in, and dark days ensued.

As an attempt to get out, Chris thought helping others may help him help himself, and he began doing volunteer work. After a brief encounter with a Scientologist at a Soup Kitchen, the hidden hand of life led him to the Spitalfields Crypt Trust (<http://www.sct.org.uk/>), a charity that helps people piece their life back together by providing help and assistance to others, and feeling part of a support network. As he physically recovered, volunteer work helped him heal on the inside, and deal with a severe mental trauma. Slowly, Chris began to take it to the next level: Andes to the Amazon, Vietnam to Cambodia, and then "North What?".

I've seen his website and seen his pictures pulling a sled around Victoria Park, his self-declared fortress of solitude and spiritual home. He has also attended a couple of LISA events, but trekking to the North Pole is a game changer, so am not sure what to think when I meet him.



We are sitting at the back of a restaurant in Shoreditch, and we are talking about his training. A keen cyclist Chris is training for the trip by pulling sledges full of a weights or cycling around Richmond park. With an abundance of technology tracking his daily progress such as Runkeeper ([www.runkeeper.com](http://www.runkeeper.com)), twitter (@touchst0ne) and the ever present iPhone and iPad, the question whether IT does not matter (N.Carr), is challenged, because in this instance, it matters a lot. Trekking to the North Pole for 8 days in subzero temperature requires both mental and physical conditioning of the highest measure. Chris has barely enough time to eat and sleep in between running, cycling and gym workouts to be able to track his progress, and having such applications makes it almost seamless. He shows me how he did forty miles today, that I began to sweat myself.

As two IS grads, we eventually drift into discussions about the underlying technology, London, Finance, Startups and the meaning of life, as if we were transported into the Old Bank of England, suited and booted and sampling the ales....

The story continues, and we move to another cafe near Spitalfields Crypt Trust, where Chris shows me his T-Shirts and posters promoting his journey, and promises to keep LISA posted on his progress, with the next report before he sets off to the coldest place on Earth.

**Follow Chris:**

Webpage: <http://www.testyourcore.com/northwhat>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/touchst0ne>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/Eggers.Sledge>

RunKeeper: <http://runkeeper.com/user/Eggers>

**Sponsor Chris on his JustGiving page:**

<http://www.justgiving.com/Spitalfields-Crypt-Trust>

Would you like to share your expertise and experiences with the alumni?

Please get in touch with the LISA Communications team

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## London Enterprise Tech Meetup Kicks Off

By Mariya Dimova



Bankers and Financial Services may grab most of the headlines when it comes to business in London; however London is a capital for many other industries, from the well known such as publishing, fashion and media, to smaller niches such as Hollywood films post-production that is done in the alleys of Soho, to high end tailoring on Saville row. However London is fast becoming a hub for the Technology Industry, spearheaded by Old Street's "Silicon Roundabout". However beyond the trendy cafes of Shoreditch, another industry brews, less flash yet more robust: Technology Companies for Enterprises.

**Ian Ellis, ADMIS class of '04** has recently returned to London after a few years in New York City. While in the Big Apple, Ian and his colleague, Jonathan Lehr, felt that there was a disconnect in the Technology sector. An ecosystem that lacked conversations amongst its practitioners, so Ellis and Lehr started the [New York Enterprise Technology Meetup](#). A monthly forum for practitioners, enthusiasts, entrepreneurs and investors to present and discuss Technology for Enterprises, in a similar manner to the world's largest Tech Meetup, the [NY Tech Meetup](#).

When Ian relocated to London in September 2012, he extended the initiative and created the [London Enterprise Technology Meetup](#), as an opportunity to bring together a community of like-minded people, the entrepreneurs of London and the UK, to talk about the latest trends and innovations in enterprise tech. With backing from the likes of Bloomberg Ventures, the LSE Department of Management and Aimar Capital, the LNETM hosts between three and four companies that vary from newly founded startups, to the established emerging technology companies.

On October 17th, the LNETM launched at Bloomberg's London HQ by hosting four companies : [Amplience](#) , a company that enables merchandisers and marketers to build device-optimised, rich and engaging customer experiences and channels for all channels and devices, [Enterproid](#) a company that helps organizations and individuals get the most out of mobile technology and corporate BYOD policies, [Evolven](#), which redefines configuration management and change management with its groundbreaking Change & Configuration Monitoring solution, and Import.io: a data exchange connecting data suppliers with data users, large and small.



LSE's Hong Kong Theatre, and under the auspices of LSE ISG **Professor Carsten Sorensen**, played host to the next four monthly LNETM meetups, hosting a suite of companies covering a range of topics and domains: [Centrix Software](#) (next generation workspace solutions for mobiles) [JClarity](#) (Java performance tuning products), [Perspecsys](#) (privacy, residency and security solutions for the cloud), [Bromium](#) (micro-virtualization security) , [CipherCloud's](#) (cloud encryption) , [iRise](#) (creative iPhone apps design), [Nexenta](#) (core storage platform), [Channel Mechanics](#) (Channel Enablement as a Service), [iMobMedia](#) (mobile solutions).



Some of the more interesting presentations covering the hot topics in Information Systems studies and Innovation, were [Digital Reasoning](#) that has developed an automated understanding for Big Data, [DataHug](#) an information analysis software that builds up a dynamic database of company-wide connections and uses analytics to show who knows who. Cloud computing was featured in the likes of [WaraTek](#) who developed the first Java Virtual Machine (JVM) specifically designed for Cloud computing and Java-as-a-Service (JaaS). Cybersecurity was covered by [Threatspike](#), a cloud service that allows you to build a secure network with built-in protection against malware, hackers and insider threats without requiring installation of any hardware or software.

Each company gets a fifteen minute slot to talk about what they do, and to give a short demo, with another ten minutes for questions and answers. A networking and drinks event follows each meetup, sponsored by the LNETM and Aimar Capital.

April's LNETM event will feature demo presentations from Digital Shadows, who offer managed security services focused on preventing threat vectors from social media and Mobeelizer that provides products to help with synchronizing back end systems with mobile applications. In addition, there will be a panel discussion about how to grow high quality European enterprise tech companies, lead by partners from leading venture capital firms, Accel Partners, DFJ Esprit, Hoxton Square Ventures and Intel Capital.

For more information and how to attend visit the LNETM page at:

<http://www.meetup.com/ln-enterprise-tech/>  
or contact Ian on [ian@lnetm.com](mailto:ian@lnetm.com).



Getting in touch with LISA is easy!

If you have any queries, comments or wish to get involved in our activities, please write to our representatives

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## Bob Galliers wins Lifetime Achievement Award

*By Heemanshu Jain*

Distinguished alumni and former ISIG Professor Bob Galliers, (PhD '87) has recently been awarded the LEO award, the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association of Information Systems. He follows in the footsteps of Emeritus [Professor Frank Land](#), who won the award in 2003.

After graduating with an AB (honors) in Economics from Harvard, and an MSc in Management Systems from Lancaster University, Galliers joined the LSE as a PhD student, graduating in 1987 after working closely with Professor Frank Land. Galliers then went on to an illustrious teaching and research career that produced over 250 publications, books and book chapters over the past 30 years. He has also been a key note speaker in over 40 conferences, and awarded Honorary Doctor of Science from Turku School of Economics & Business Administration in Finland.

During the 1980s he became Curtin University's inaugural Professor of Information Systems, serving as Head of the School of IS for seven years, during which time he led the development of Australia's first Master's program to focus on the strategic, management and organizational issues and impacts of IT. He returned to the UK in 1989 as Lucas Professor of Business Management Systems at Warwick Business School, holding the directorship of its Master's program in Business Management Systems until he became Dean in 1994. In 1998 he stepped down as Dean and moved to INSEAD, France on a visiting professorship, before joining the LSE's Department of IS, where he was Research Director. He moved to the USA in 2002 as Provost of what was then Bentley College. He became Bentley University's inaugural University Distinguished Professor in 2009, having served as Provost for seven years during which time he headed up Bentley's progress to university status and EQUIS and EDAMBA accreditations.



"It's of course a great privilege to have one's work recognized by the international community in this way, but also very humbling," said Galliers. "I would like to thank the AIS for this recognition; it is a great honor to be ranked among such luminaries of the field." Galliers also stressed to LISA specifically, that it makes him very proud (albeit feeling a little old) that two out of the three Britons to win the award be closely tied to the LSE Information Systems Group.

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One LISA student realized that a Wikipedia article did not exist for Bob, and decided to write it. It's the Who's Who of the post-Information age, to which LISA reigns supreme.

## Book Review: The Man Who Sang Along

By Charles Wahab

Life has a lot to offer, and if there was a city to exemplify that, London would be it. So how can someone be bored with life living in this mad city? A simple and short introduction to a book with an intriguing title draws one to a somewhat enigmatic, yet deeply insightful book that offers everything, by an author who will certainly offer much more.

Long serving LSE Professor Steve Smithson has just published his first novel "The Man Who Sang Along", the story of Richard, a middle aged man at the cross roads of a past life and at the cusp of a new one: an end of a marriage, a new home and the promise of a new page. Moments of clarity sometimes come at unexpected times and in strange forms. In Richard's case, it comes in the form of a stuffed owl. Moving out of a place he called home, leaving behind a relationship that he had become disillusioned with, two grown up sons that have left the nest, and an old car, Richard has little individual possessions to take with him to a flat share in Mudchute in East London: a few Grateful Dead CDs amongst other cult musicians, some clothes, and the stuffed owl.

The story begins with a life now behind him, and journey full of surprises, to which the novel carries itself nicely, with episode after episode that resembles the randomness of a London night bus: alcohol rich, unexpected, and hugely entertaining, if one keeps an arm's length detachment from a surreal existence.

From Epping, to a council flat in Bermondsey, Richard travels to Jamaica, gets infatuated with a young lady, and changes a job he has held for decades. The journey unravels, as the storyline flows as entertainingly as it is surreal that the reader is bound to get engulfed in the story that shuffles back and forth between past and present, reality, imagination, and optimism for the future.

For Londoners, the book strikes a chord: Boring and self-absorbed colleagues complicated family relationships, in a tough town: who has not had his hand in Jamaican weed and, who has not felt the melancholy of Xmas in London? Under the watchful eye of his friend D'Arcy, Richard realizes that "times they are a changing".

With an eloquently simple and creative writing style, Smithson leaves a trail of breadcrumbs throughout the book that leaves a point to ponder: can a stuffed owl symbolize changing times?



### [The Man Who Sang Along](#)

- By **Steve Smithson**

Paperback, 241 pages, £9.99

Purchasable at [lulu.com](http://lulu.com)

We are looking for CV advisors  
Please contact committee member  
Elena Trifonova

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## News in brief

- Old Bank of England networking event continued on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013.
- Next LISA Social: Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 starting 645pm at Old Bank of England.
- 'The Start-up Kids' Film Event : Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013: 6:00pm – 9:00pm  
Innovation Warehouse, 1 East Poultry Avenue, London, EC1A 9PT  
booking (Free): [www.bcs.org/startupkids](http://www.bcs.org/startupkids) to book your place.

## About LSE Information Systems Alumni (LISA)

The London School of Economics - Information Systems and Innovation Group (ISIG), Department of Management are helping to organize alumni from MISI, ADMIS, ISOR, and PhD through LISA. If you took any of the IS department courses in the last 30 years, we look forward to your involvement in connecting with fellow IS Alumni.

We are actively seeking engagement with fellow alumni who might be interested in taking part in various activities with LISA. If you can get recruiters at the campus, wish to share your experiences in the industry or during PhD, mentor students or contribute your time and effort in any other way, we'd like to facilitate your activities. Please write to one of our committee members.

More information about LISA can be found by accessing the following web links or by emailing us

LISA Homepage on LSE website - [click here](#)

LISA Facebook Group – [click here](#)

LISA LinkedIn Group – [click here](#)

Email: [lisa@lse.ac.uk](mailto:lisa@lse.ac.uk)