



HETERODOX SOCIAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2025

POST-PROGRESSIVISM?: TOWARD A NEW SOCIAL SCIENCE



ATTENDEE GUIDEBOOK

5-7 JUNE 2025

THE VINSON CENTRE, UNIVERSITY OF BUCKINGHAM
[HETERODOXCONFERENCE.COM](https://heterodoxconference.com)

WELCOME TO THE INAUGURAL HETERODOX SOCIAL SCIENCE CONFERENCE.

We are entering a post-progressive era in which sixty years of cultural left intellectual hegemony is in question. Populism, polarization, progressive illiberalism and the fraying of social capital have produced an intellectual crisis and loss of confidence in our progressive-dominated meaning-making institutions. Traditional leftists, classical liberals and conservatives have all rendered pointed critiques of the cultural left episteme. A shift away from 'woke' excess is evident in new media, social media and even established media and organizations, but is being steadfastly resisted in academia.

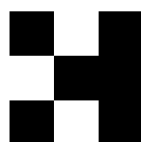
Even so, academic research is vital for building theories which frame, organize and systematize smaller-scale insights from think tanks, the media and empirical scholars. We need high theory and intellectual depth alongside analysis and commentary. This requires networks, conferences, journals, associations, canonical texts, graduate programmes and courses. This conference is both an intellectual and an organizational endeavour.

The conference addresses a major problem: our knowledge-production system is heavily swayed by its cultural left weltanschauung, directing attention to progressive topics and viewpoints while using carrots and sticks to constrain the pursuit of truth. As a result, today's social science conceals as much as it reveals about the world.

The conference's intellectual aims are twofold: a) to institutionalize the study of woke, arguably a dominant high-cultural ideology of our episteme; and b) to research omitted topics and perspectives, rebalancing social scientific knowledge.

We need a New Social Science for an emerging post-progressive era.

Professor Eric Kaufmann
Professor of Politics at The University of Buckingham
Director of the Centre for Heterodox Social Science



TRAVEL

Conference venue: The Vinson Centre, University of Buckingham, Hunter Street, Buckingham, MK18 1EG, England

For international guests: All guests travelling to the United Kingdom from abroad are required to obtain an [Electronic Travel Authorisation \(ETA\)](#). Everyone travelling needs to get an ETA, including babies and children. You can apply for this through the UK ETA app, available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#). The application takes up to 3 working days to process and costs £16. If you would like to get this reimbursed, please send your receipt and payment details to Charlie (charlie-downes@touchpointstrategy.co.uk).

After you touch down: For simplicity and convenience, we recommend that attendees arriving at Heathrow, Gatwick, or Luton use Uber or share a car with fellow attendees. This is often faster and more direct than navigating multiple train transfers. If you'd like help coordinating ride-shares with other guests arriving at similar times, please reach out to Charlie at charlie-downes@touchpointstrategy.co.uk.

If you prefer to travel by train, here are the steps:

From Heathrow:

- Train from Heathrow Terminal 5 to London Paddington
- Tube from Paddington to Euston Square (Circle or Hammersmith & City Line), then a short walk to London Euston
- Train from London Euston to Milton Keynes Central
- Taxi/Uber from Milton Keynes Central to the conference venue (13 miles)

From Gatwick:

- Train to London Victoria
- Tube from Victoria to Euston (Victoria Line)
- Train from London Euston to Milton Keynes Central
- Taxi/Uber to the venue

We recommend using [Trainline](#) to purchase your train tickets. You will need to collect your tickets from a ticket terminal or desk using the code provided on Trainline after purchase.

When returning to Milton Keynes Central from the conference venue, you will need to use a local taxi firm, as listed below. Be sure to keep at least £50 cash on you in case your taxi does not accept card payment.

If you are travelling by car, there is a car park onsite. The Vinson Centre also has ample parking in the Island car park, situated next to it (postcode MK18 1EG).

If you would like to get any travel costs reimbursed, please send your receipts and payment details to Charlie (charlie-downes@touchpointstrategy.co.uk). We are only able to cover standard fare.

Local Taxi Companies

Royal Cabs: 01908 444 444

R&R Taxis: 01280 822222

247 Taxis: 01280 823636

Ash Cars: 01280 824888

Abbey Cars: 01280 822666

ACCOMMODATION

We are using two accommodation venues near the conference venue. Breakfast is available at each venue. If you are staying in your hotel on nights **before** or **after** the 5th and 6th of June, please note that you will need to pay for these additional nights on arrival. You can be reimbursed for this expense by sending an invoice addressed to the University of Buckingham, along with any relevant receipts, to Charlie.

Villiers Hotel

Villiers Hotel, 3 Castle Street, Buckingham, England MK18 1BS

0.3 miles from the conference venue

Check in from 03:00 PM, check out at 11:00 AM

Whittlebury Park

Whittlebury Park, Whittlebury, England NN12 8QH

7.6 miles from the conference venue

Check in from 04:00 PM, check out at 11:00 AM

Minibus transport is available and will run as follows:

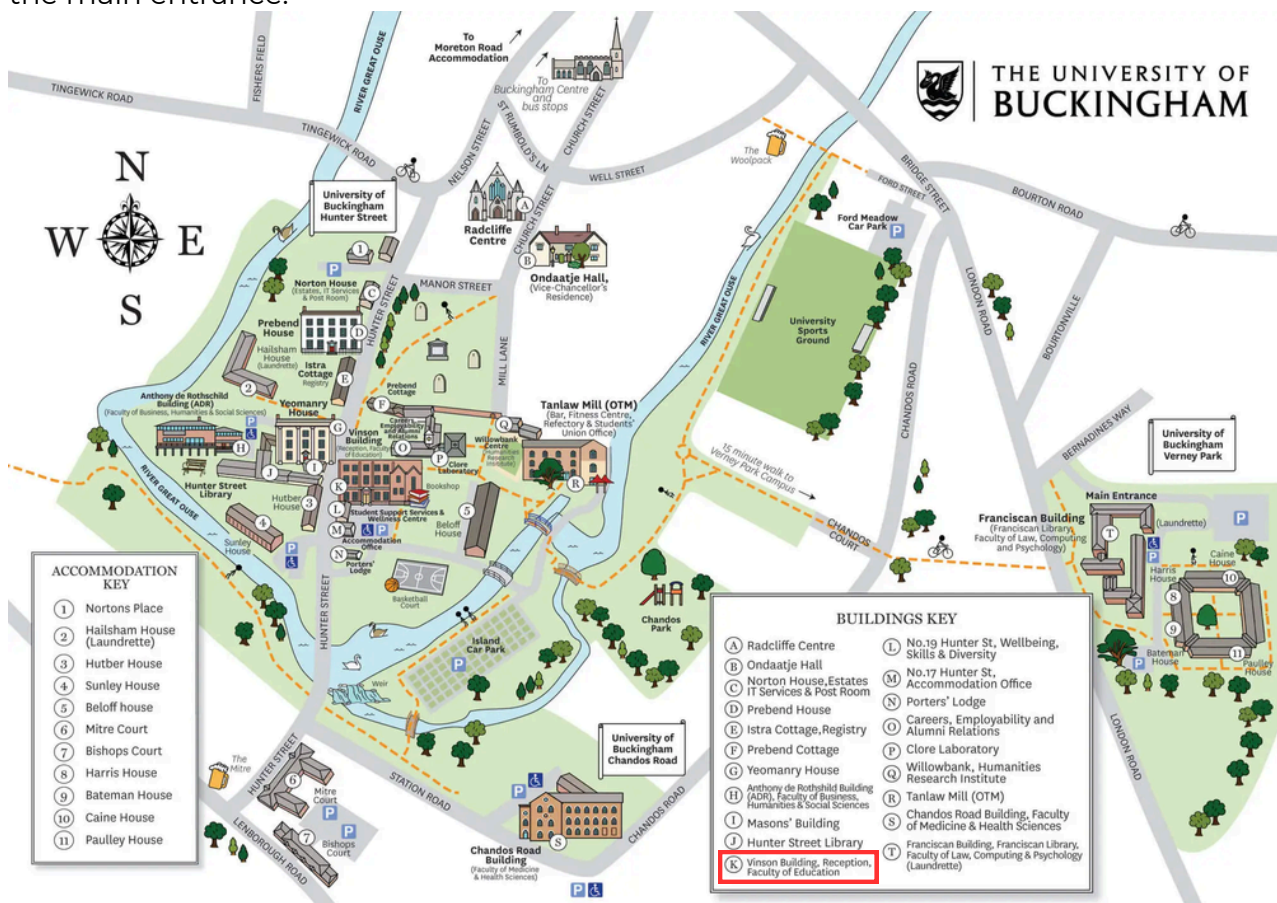
| Date | Time | Pickup Location | Destination |
|------|----------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 5th | 08:45 PM | Hunter Street, outside Vinson Centre | Whittlebury Park |
| 6th | 08:45 AM | Whittlebury Park car park | Vinson Centre |
| | 11:00 PM | Hunter Street, outside Vinson Centre | Whittlebury Park |
| 7th | 08:45 AM | Whittlebury Park car park | Vinson Centre |
| | 01:30 PM | Hunter Street, outside Vinson Centre | Whittlebury Park |

ON ARRIVAL

Upon arrival in Buckingham, please make your way to the Vinson Centre. If you arrive early, you're welcome to relax in the lobby or Enterprise Centre, where tea and coffee will be available throughout the day. If you have any baggage, please leave it at reception.

When you check in at the welcome desk in the Vinson Centre lobby, you'll receive a lanyard with name badge. This will act as your pass for the event – do not lose it. Conference sessions will begin promptly, so please arrive at the Vinson Centre at least 30 minutes before your first scheduled event.

For any questions or assistance, our team will be stationed at the welcome desk near the main entrance.



SCHEDULE

DAY 1

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE

| Time | Session | Speaker | Location |
|---------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| 12:30 PM – 01:15 PM | Tea and Coffee | | Enterprise Centre, Ground Floor |
| 01:15 PM - 01:30 PM | Welcome to the Heterodox Social Science Conference 2025 | Eric Kaufmann | Auditorium |
| | | James Tooley | |
| 01:30 PM - 02:15 PM | The Post-Progressive Condition | Eric Kaufmann | |
| 02:15 PM - 03:30PM | Class Exclusion or True Belief? Chaired by Matt Goodwin | Gad Saad Parasitic Ideas and Suicidal Empathy Are Killing the West | |
| | | Batya Ungar-Sargon Wokeness is a Smokescreen for Class | |
| 03:30 PM - 03:50 PM | Coffee Break | | Lobby |

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|---------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| 03:50 PM - 04:50 PM | Critical Woke Studies Chaired by James Esses | Frank Furedi The Culture War Over Socialisation | Auditorium |
| | | Joshua Katz What has happened to the field of Linguistics? | |
| | | Andrew Doyle The End of Woke | |
| 03:50 PM - 04:50 PM | Countercultural Social Science Chaired by Lee Jussim | April Bleske-Rechek Persistent Sex and Race Differences in Advanced Placement Exam Participation and Performance | Enterprise Centre, First Floor |
| | | Cory Clark Letters from the Editors: Harm Concerns in the Scientific Publication Process | |
| 05:00 PM - 06:00 PM | Classical Liberal Approaches Chaired by Eric Kaufmann | Yascha Mounk How to Fight the Identity Trap Without Becoming Illiberal | Auditorium |
| | | Steven Pinker A Positive Vision for Scholarship and Society | |
| 06:30 PM - 08:30 PM | Drinks Reception (Speakers only) | | Ondaatje Hall |

DAY 2

FRIDAY 6TH JUNE

| Time | Session | Speaker | Location |
|---------------------|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 09:30 AM - 10:30 AM | US and UK Chaired by James Esses | Matt Goodwin Speaking up for the Forgotten Majority | Auditorium |
| | | Wesley Yang The End of the Age of Emancipation | |
| 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Coffee Break | | Enterprise Centre, Ground Floor |
| 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM | Critical Woke Studies Chaired by Lee Jussim | Nathan Honeycutt Mind the Gag: Self- Censorship in the Ivory Tower | Auditorium |
| | | Jukka Savolainen Let's Be Honest: On the Cancellation of Sociology by the State of Florida | |
| | | John Iceland Post-Social Justice: How Should We Study Racial Inequality? | |
| | Countercultural Social Science Chaired by Jon Benjamin | Jan van de Beek Fiscal costs and benefits of immigration: taboos and some results | Enterprise Centre, First Floor |
| | | Colin Wright Sex Pseudoscience in Society and the Academy | |

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|---------------------|--|---|---------------------------------|
| 12:00 PM - 01:00 PM | Critical Woke Studies Chaired by James Esses | Zvi Shalem A Science vs. Woke Manifesto | Auditorium |
| | | J.D. Haltigan Personality, Psychopathology, & Political Beliefs | |
| | | Pamela Paresky Investing Wisely in a Prestige Economy | |
| | Countercultural Social Science Chaired by Lawrence Patihis | Richard McNally Is Clinical Psychological Science Racist? | Enterprise Centre, First Floor |
| | | Sally Satel Corruption of Psychotherapies | |
| 01:00 PM - 02:15 PM | Lunch | | Enterprise Centre, Ground Floor |
| 02:30 PM - 03:30 PM | Critical Woke Studies Chaired by Jon Benjamin | Thomas Prosser The Economic Drivers of Social Justice Ideology: Developing Hypotheses and Presenting Empirical Evidence | Auditorium |
| | | Neema Parvini To What Extent is Wokeness Downstream of Law? | |
| | | Jamin Halberstadt Academic freedom in New Zealand, and the Validity of Verbal Harm | |

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|---------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|
| 02:30 PM - 03:30 PM | Countercultural Social Science Chaired by Lee Jussim | Sean Stevens Investigating Conservative Criticisms of American Higher Education | Enterprise Centre, First Floor |
| | | Kevin McCaffree Documenting "Woke" Ideology with Data | |
| | | Zach Goldberg Waxing or Waning?: Post-Floyd Trends in the Great Awakening | |
| 03:30 PM - 04:00 PM | Coffee Break | | Enterprise Centre, Ground Floor |
| 04:00 PM - 05:00 PM | Class or Ideology? Chaired by Lee Jussim | Musa al-Gharbi We Have Never Been Woke: The Cultural Contradictions of a New Elite | Auditorium |
| | | Wilfred Reilly Anti-Heterodox Pressures in the Current USA: What IS Taboo, for the Modern and Amoral?! | |
| 05:15 PM - 06:15 PM | Role of Government Chaired by Eric Kaufmann | Chris Rufo The State and the University: In Defense of Trump | Auditorium |
| 07:00 PM - late | Drinks Reception and Banquet (Invite only) | Michael Shermer Truth: What it is, How to Find it, Why it Still Matters | Villiers Hotel Ballroom, Buckingham |

DAY 3

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE

| Time | Session | Speaker | Location |
|---------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| 09:30 AM - 10:30 AM | Critical Woke Studies Chaired by Charlie Downes | Lawrence Krauss We Thought Science Was Immune. It Wasn't. | Auditorium |
| | | Bob Maranto How to Have Heterodox Scholarly Journals | |
| | | Claire Lehmann Dignity, Not Victimhood: Reclaiming Liberal Feminism | |
| | Countercultural Social Science Chaired by Lawrence Patihis | Zachary Patterson The Relationship Between "Diversity" and Academic Output | Enterprise Centre, First Floor |
| | | Luke Conway Is Islamophobia Real? Finding Empirical Answers to Questions We're Not Supposed to Ask | |
| | | Jonathan Anomaly Breaking the Blank Slate: Social Consequences of the Polygenic Revolution | |
| 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM | Coffee Break | | Enterprise Centre, Ground Floor |

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|---------------------|---|--|------------|
| 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM | Roundtable on the Future of Heterodox Social Science | Kevin McCaffree Theory and Society | Auditorium |
| | | Bob Maranto Journal of School Choice | |
| | | Francesca Minerva The Journal of Controversial Ideas | |
| | | Lee Jussim Journal of Open Inquiry in the Behavioural Sciences | |
| | | Sean Stevens FIRE | |
| 12:20 PM - 12:45 PM | Closing Remarks | Eric Kaufmann The Buckingham Manifesto and The Buckingham Heterodox Social Science Research Award | |