



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

**SIR TONY BRENTON KCMG**, formerly British Ambassador to Russia and Governing Body Fellow, Wolfson College, worked for 30 years for the Foreign Office. He first learnt Arabic and spent three years in Cairo working on the Middle East Dispute. From 1980-1989 he handled European matters in London and in Brussels, working on energy issues and the birth of European environment policy. Back in London he ran UN issues in the Foreign Office and took charge of preparation for the 1992 'Earth Summit', which achieved the first global agreement on Climate Change. After a year at Harvard (writing a book about international environment policy – 'The Greening of Machiavelli'), he learnt Russian and spent 1994-1998 in Moscow dealing with Russian economic reform. After a further period in London on UN matters (including the establishment of the International Criminal Court) he was posted in 2001 to Washington dealing with the consequences of 9/11, the Afghanistan war and the Iraq war. In 2004 he was posted to Moscow as Ambassador where he managed Britain's relations with Russia during a turbulent period. He was awarded a KCMG in 2007. He became a Fellow of Wolfson College in 2009.

**CHRIS BRYANT** has been the Member of Parliament for the Rhondda since 2001, and was the Minister for Europe and the Deputy Leader of the House of Commons. He was one of the two leading MPs who fought to expose the phone hacking scandal at Rupert Murdoch's News International. He is the author of *Parliament: The Biography* as well as biographies of Sir Stafford Cripps and Glenda Jackson.

**DR LIAM FOX MP** was born in 1961. He was educated at St Bride's High School, East Kilbride and University of Glasgow where he was President of the University Conservative Club, 1982-83. Dr Liam Fox is a General Practitioner, a former Civilian Army Medical Officer and Divisional Surgeon with St John Ambulance. He is a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He has been the Member of Parliament for Woodspring since April 1992. He was a Member of the Scottish Select Committee, April 1992-July 1993; Secretary of the Conservative Back Bench Health Committee April 1992-July 1993 and Secretary of the Conservative West Country Members Committee April 1992-July 1993. In June 1993, Dr Fox was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Rt Hon Michael Howard QC MP, Home Secretary. In July 1994 Dr Fox was appointed an Assistant Government Whip. Following a limited Government reshuffle on 29 November 1995, he was appointed a Lord Commissioner of Her Majesty's Treasury - a Senior Government Whip. He was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office from 1996-97. In June 1997, following the general election, he was appointed Opposition Front Bench Spokesman on Constitutional Affairs. Dr Fox was appointed to the Shadow Cabinet in June 1998 as Chief Spokesman for Constitutional Affairs and promoted to



Shadow Health Secretary in June 1999. He was made Co-Chairman of the Conservative Party by Michael Howard, the new Conservative Leader in early November 2003. After the general election in May 2005, Dr Fox was appointed Shadow Foreign Secretary and then Shadow Defence Secretary on 7 December following David Cameron's election as Conservative Leader. He was appointed Defence Secretary after the last election and resigned in October 2011.

**JOHN LOUGH** runs the Russia & CIS practice of BGR Gabara, a London-based public affairs company. He is also an Associate Fellow with the Russia & Eurasia Programme at Chatham House. From 2003 to 2008, he was an international affairs adviser at TNK-BP, Russia's third largest oil company. From 2001 to 2003, he was Managing Director of The PBN Company's London office. He spent six years with NATO (1995-2001), including a posting to Moscow where he set up NATO's Information Office. From 1989 to 1995, he was a senior lecturer at the Soviet Studies (later Conflict Studies) Research Centre.

**THE EARL OF OXFORD AND ASQUITH** served 18 years in the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office with particular emphasis on Soviet and Eastern European affairs. He was a founding member of the British Embassy in Kyiv and served as its Counsellor from 1992 to 1997. Following diplomatic service, Lord Oxford pursued a career in business and is currently Non-Executive Director of JKC Oil & Gas plc, the largest British investor in Ukraine. He is the newest hereditary peer to join the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords.

**GWENDOLYN SASSE** is a Professorial Fellow at Nuffield College and University Reader in Comparative Politics in the Department of Politics and International Relations and the School for Interdisciplinary Area Studies. Prior to her arrival in Oxford in 2007 she was a Senior Lecturer in the European Institute and the Department of Government at the London School of Economics. She holds a PhD in Political Science from the LSE (which was awarded the LSE Robert McKenzie Prize for the best dissertation). Her research has concentrated on different dimensions of regime change, with a particular emphasis on the post-communist region. Her most recent book *The Crimea Question: Identity, Transition, and Conflict*, Cambridge, (Harvard University Press, 2007) won the Alexander Nove Prize, the Annual Book Prize awarded by the British Association for Slavonic and East European Studies. She is currently working on the political behaviour of migrants, in particular the 'political remittances' migrants send 'home'. She received an Oxford University Teaching Excellence Award in 2009.