



Oxford
Global
Society

OXGS Annual Report 2022

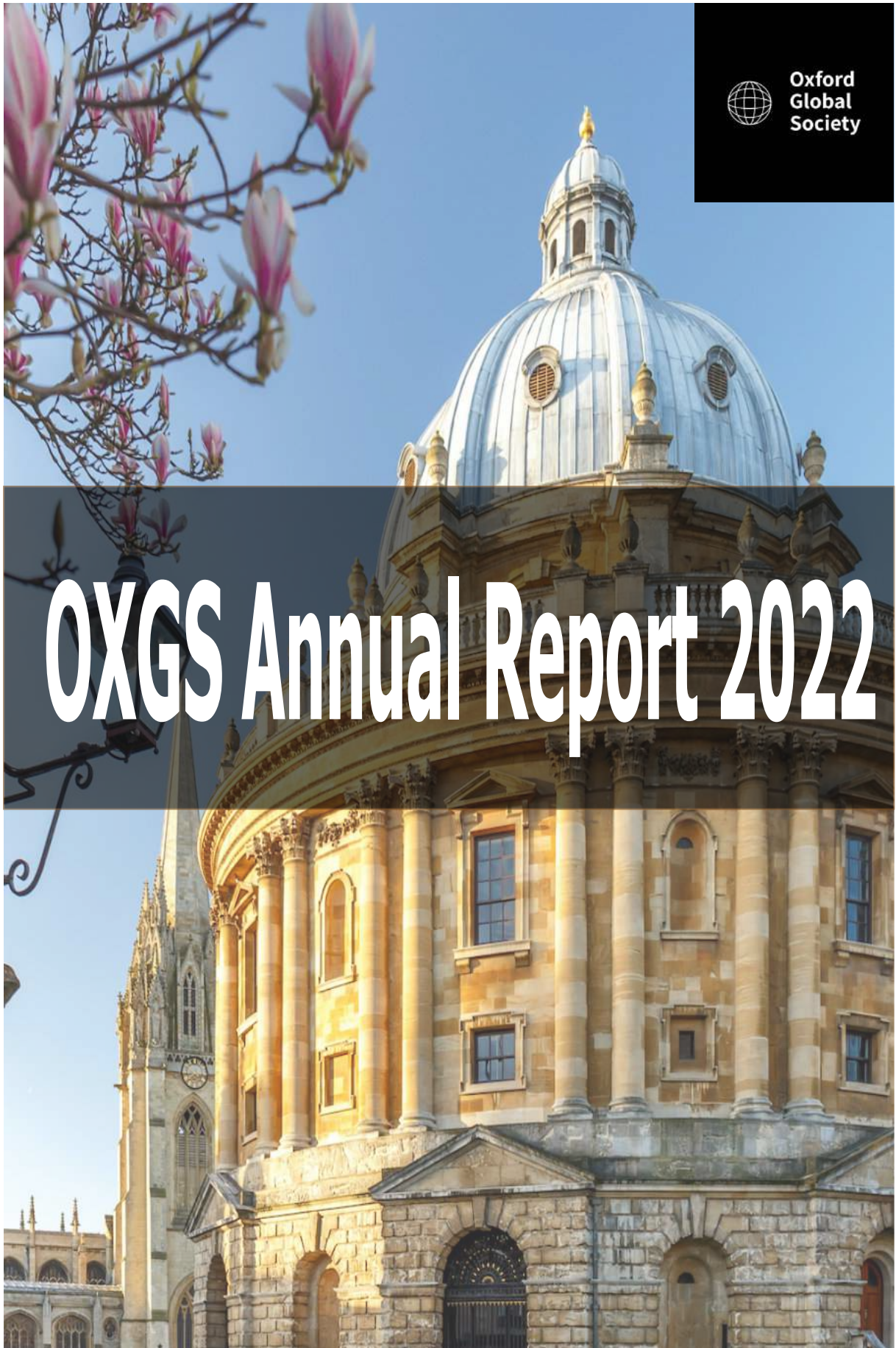


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Foreword



It is a pleasure to introduce the first annual report of the Oxford Global Society. Founded just over a year ago with a small team of Fellows, the OXGS has begun to establish itself on the international scene through research and publications, analysis of policy, and the organisation of events.

The reasons for yet another think-tank in a crowded field are worth stating. The title *Oxford Global Society* sets the focus on subjects of an international nature, which at the same time impinge on and intersect with the affairs of nations and communities. The purpose of the OXGS is to identify such subjects and themes, rigorously analyse, scrutinise, and debate them from a *truly global perspective*, all made available to the public in accessible forms.

These aims are met partly by having assembled a society of fellows of high academic and professional standing; partly by appointing to the Advisory Board persons of wide experience and admirable distinction; and partly by engaging in events speakers with diverse backgrounds and views.

How in its first year OXGS has met these aims is set out in the following report with further details displayed on our website.

To all who have helped in launching the think tank, organising and taking part in events, preparing reports, and contributing in many other ways to a successful first year, I offer my appreciation and warm thanks. To our members - Fellows and Associate Fellows, Research Analysts and Assistants— I extend special thanks for their efforts in establishing OXGS.

It is pleasing to have the Advisory Board now in place, chaired by Mr *Alan Doss*, former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and President of the Kofi Annan Foundation. The Advisory Board will be a source of ideas, advice, and measured judgement as the OXGS matures and extends its reach. We have also established a Content Board, chaired by *Richard Caplan*, Professor of International Relations at Oxford University. The Board exists to supervise the independence and quality of our research and publications.

The OXGS is now established, is gaining recognition and growing in reputation. We shall now build on that foundation in 2023.

Denis Galligan

Director OXGS, Emeritus Professor Oxford University

About Us

Oxford Global Society (<https://oxgs.org>) is an independent and non-political think tank based in Oxford, UK. Most of our members have or had a connection with Oxford University and other academic or research institutions. We focus on selected issues of global interest and significance.

Our Defining Characteristics

- **Being global**

We are global not only in our research subjects, but also in our perspectives. We are **not Euro- or Western-centric**, but seek to represent views and perspectives around the world.

- **A strong academic background**

We draw on our strong academic resources and reflect academic rigour in our policy-oriented research and publications.

- **A strong research team**

We have a strong team of professors and researchers from universities, research institutions and businesses.

Advisory Board

Working for the United Nations over several decades, I became keenly aware that the increasing complexity and pace of change in the global order obliged us to connect and learn from the wider world of civil society, the business sector, the media and academia. We needed to engage in discussion and debate with society at large if we wanted to address the pressing challenges of international governance, peace and security, human development and rapid technological innovation.

My UN experience, together with my later work with the Kofi Annan Foundation, confirmed for me that open and inclusive debate based on diverse, and perhaps contrarian points of view, is indispensable to advancing human progress.

So I am delighted to chair the Advisory Board of the Oxford Global Society, and along with my colleagues on the Board, to support the work of Professor Galligan and the OXGS team as they foster and facilitate research and debate on concerns – current and future - of vital global significance.

Alan Doss
January 2023



Mr. Alan Doss

Former UN Under-Secretary-General, former President of Kofi Annan Foundation



Sir Ivor Roberts

KCMG, Former British Ambassador in Belgrade, Dublin and Rome; former President of Trinity College Oxford University



Prof. Catherine Barnard

FBA, FLSW, FRSA, Professor of EU law and Employment Law at Cambridge University



Mr. Fui Tsikata

Senior lawyer and former university professor at Ghana; founding member of the board of directors of the African Arbitration Association

The Role of Advisory Board

- To provide intellectual guidance on substantive issues
- To be a source of counsel and advice to the Management
- To suggest ideas for events and projects
- To be a source of contacts and to facilitate connections and partnerships
- To offer guidance on potential sources of funding

Our Research



In its first year of existence, the Oxford Global Society (OXGS) has established itself as an important port of call for insightful analysis of some of the more pressing issues of the day. We have taken advantage of the opportunities afforded us by digital technologies to attract the participation of diverse speakers and audiences from across the globe. We have examined these issues further in a series of reports, research papers and commentaries which we encourage you to consult at <https://oxgs.org/publications>.

In the year to come, OXGS will continue to offer incisive, accessible, policy-oriented analysis with which we aim to enrich public conversation. We aspire to provide novel perspective on a broad range of subjects in the interest of spurring informed debate.

Richard Caplan

Chair of OXGS Content Board
Professor of International Relations at Oxford

Research Clusters & Approaches



Global politics



Governance & Law



Political Economy



Digital Technologies
& Governance

Our research approaches

- ◆ Focusing on the big picture, rather than the day-to-day developments
- ◆ Providing independent and objective analysis of complex and often controversial issues
- ◆ Assembling and representing multiple views and perspectives

Our Events

In the past year, we organized a series of events covering a wide range of subjects ranging from the Russia-Ukraine war, global technology standards, to the unity of a nation.

- ◆ *High-profile speakers* Many of our events featured outstanding academics, former policy-makers, and leading industry experts.
- ◆ *Open to the public* As a non-for-profit organization, all events so far are open to the public for free.
- ◆ *Providing an invaluable forum* Our events involve speakers from various countries, covering different perspectives, and provide a platform that respect different views and contribute to better understanding of controversial and pressing issues.

Russia-Ukraine War

We organized three public events related to the war:

- *The Ukraine crisis: three perspectives*
- *Integration of Ukraine in the EU – Challenges and Opportunities*
- *The Russia-Ukraine war: The West vs. The Rest?*



The [first](#) event was held on March 1st, 2022, only days after the breaking out of the war, involving our fellow *Daniel Bilak* from Ukraine, a senior lawyer and former advisor to Ukraine Prime Minister and three professors from Oxford University. The [second](#) event involved top experts in Ukraine, Europe, and North America. The [third](#) one focused on global perspectives about the war, chaired by our Advisory Board member Sir Ivor Roberts and speakers included leading analysts from the West, China, India, and Africa.

Highlights of Russia-Ukraine War Events

Over **620 registrants** for the event ('Three perspectives') and over 350 people online at the same time

Around **10K views** on YouTube in two months for the event (The West vs. The Rest)

Events on Digital Technologies

We organized several events around the governance of digital technologies, examining issues including [global technology standards](#), [digital surveillance](#) and [cross-border data transfer](#).

- ◆ *The geopolitics of global high-tech standards: Key issues and debates*
- ◆ *The era of digital surveillance: Authoritarianism vs. Democracy?*
- ◆ *Governing cross-border data flows: International trade agreements and their limits*



The global technology standards event was chaired by *prof. Robin Mansell* from the LSE (OXGS Fellow & Content Board member) and speakers included leading academics and experts from the US, EU, China, UK and South Korea. The event was attended by researchers, as well as industry people and policy-makers.

The Putney Debates: The unity of a nation



The New Putney Debates, revived by Professor Denis Galligan in 2017, aims to identify and examine current issues critical to effective constitutional governance. The subject for 2021 was the unity of a nation, against the backdrop of fragmentation in the UK and other countries. The event involved leading experts from the UK (including academics from all four parts of the UK-England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland), together with lectures on unity within the US, China, Spain and Italy. This event consisted of five pre-recorded lectures and two live panel discussions. Apart from posting the event videos, we published several articles authored by the panelists.

Our Publications

As emphasized earlier, we have a strong academic background and a strong team, and we collaborate with many other researchers, academics and experts outside the think tank. Based on these strengths, we aim to embody the following traits in our publications:

- ◆ **High-quality** We have a review system for all publications (internal or external)
- ◆ **Depths and insights** We aim to produce analysis that is not available in public media or most other think tanks
- ◆ **Evidence** Our publications are evidence-based, even for those opinion pieces (reflecting our academic background)

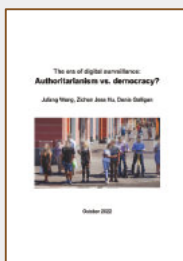
Policy-oriented Reports



Global perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine war: The West vs. the Rest?



The Geopolitics of global technology standards: Key issues and solutions



The era of digital surveillance: Authoritarianism vs. democracy?



European policies towards Chinese tech companies

Apart from research reports, we also published many commentaries or opinion pieces and research summaries or papers. They are not only from our own members, some of which are invited contributions from outside academics and experts. Below are some publications we would like to highlight and express our thanks to the efforts of the authors:

- ◆ [*Burma's struggle for the future*](#) (Alan Doss, former Under Secretary General of the UN, chair of OXGS Advisory Board)
- ◆ [*Measuring peace: Principles, practices and Politics*](#) (Prof. Richard Caplan, OXGS Fellow & Oxford University)
- ◆ [*The 'Do No Harm' principle: So simple? So easy to misunderstand!*](#) (Frank Vibert, OXGS Fellow, founding director of the European Policy Forum)
- ◆ [*Behind the geopolitical conflicts around global technology standards*](#) (Carl Cargill, former director of standards of Adobe and Sun Microsystems)
- ◆ [*International law after the war in Ukraine: The crumbling cascade*](#) (Katarína Šipulová, OXGS Fellow, Co-director of the Judicial Studies Institute, Masaryk University)
- ◆ [*A brief overview of the American model of federalism*](#) (Richard W. Clary, OXGS Fellow, Harvard Law School)
- ◆ [*The place of England-Dominant or Forgotten?*](#) (Prof. Alison Young, Cambridge University)
- ◆ [*The view from Scotland of a Disunited Kingdom*](#) (Prof. Nicola McEwen, Edinburgh University)
- ◆ [*The Unity of the UK: A choice beyond parliamentary sovereignty vs. Federalism*](#) (Prof. Michael Gordon, Liverpool University)
- ◆ [*Loss of trust in the Union: The view from Northern Ireland*](#) (Prof. Christopher McCrudden of Queen's University Belfast)

The Year Ahead

Building on what we have achieved and learned from the year of 2022, we look forward to the year ahead as one of growth, building on our base and establishing our position in the international arena. We aim, and our plan is, to become a point of reference for objective, evidence-based, and in-depth analysis of critical and controversial, issues of global interest and importance.

Plans for the year of 2023

Increasing financial security Seeking funding from both funding organizations and private sources

Expanding our team Attracting more members from geographically diverse regions to offer truly global perspectives

Strengthening our content board To ensure the independence and quality of our research and publications, the Content Board will play a more central role in the daily work of the OXGS

Building our identity We see 2023 as a year for us to build a clear identity

Developing our blogs/opinion pieces Responding timely to selected important issues

Some planned events/projects for 2023

- ◆ *Putney Debates 2022-23 (The crisis of democracy)*
- ◆ A series of *public lectures* delivered by outstanding academics and distinguished people from the world on selected important topics
- ◆ A conference on *Leveraging Digital Technologies for Real-world Impact*
- ◆ *Restoring nations*: following on from the Putney Debates on the unity of a nation, this project aims to analyze the conditions and the processes for restoring a nation to unity under civil government

Report editors: *Dr Jufang Wang & Prof Denis Galligan*

Reviewed by: *Mr Alan Doss & Prof Richard Caplan*