

THINK TANK SUMMIT REPORT



THINK TANKS & CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM

The Lauder Institute

The University of Pennsylvania



**EUROPEAN SUMMIT**

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October 3, 2015

# Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

*“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”*

Researching the trends and challenges facing think tanks, policymakers, and policy-oriented civil society groups...

Sustaining, strengthening, and building capacity for think tanks around the world...

Maintaining the largest, most comprehensive database of over 6,500 think tanks...

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**2015 EUROPEAN THINK TANK SUMMIT REPORT**  
*Growth and Security: In Search of a European Response*

**Institute for International Political Studies**  
**Palazzo Clerici, Milan, Italy**

**3 October, 2015**



# Introduction

## The 2015 European Think Tank Summit Brought Together Leading European Institutions to Discuss Growth and Security in a European Context with European Solutions

This summit brought together 58 participants from 24 European countries to narrow the discussions from the 2015 Global Think Tank Summit on regional solutions to contemporary issues of security, economics, integration, and innovation. The purpose of this summit was to bring together leading minds from European think tanks to develop concrete recommendations for policymakers, donors and the greater European think tank community.



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The 2015 European Think Tank Summit convened to provide recommendations and suggestions centered around four main issues: *the security and migration crises on eastern and southern borders, the economic Eurozone crisis, European integration, and the need for Europe-centric think tank innovation*. The conference was conducted under the Chatham House rule, in order that participants, panelists, and chairs could speak freely and engage in productive and thoughtful debate.

The questions and suggestions raised throughout the summit were framed by a political and economic landscape of overlapping and concurrent crises throughout Europe. Between rising tensions in the East with Russian militarization, the eruption of the post-colonial order in the Middle East and North Africa region, and ever-increasing migration of refugees and economic



migrants to the European continent, many of the assumptions that have been held about the European order were brought into question. Additionally, the proliferation of terrorist attacks from Copenhagen to Paris and concerns regarding cyberattacks ignited questions regarding physical and non-physical borders and raised concerns regarding the future of cyber security.

The European summit also discussed in great length the migration crisis facing Europe, which is reaching unprecedented numbers and creating new challenges for EU Member States. Over the past few months, migrants have faced mixed responses from Eastern and Western European countries. One participant remarked that a “siege mentality” has begun to form in the minds of Europeans, and that this has created a spectrum of questions about how we look at physical borders. Participants discussed how best to formulate a regional response to the migration crisis while also remaining sensitive to national interests over maintaining job security, cultural and national identity, and national and regional security. One participant remarked that twenty years ago, Europe faced a similar crisis in the Balkans with conflict, state collapse, and displaced migrants and that many lessons can be learned from this historical example. From this point, discussions led to the conclusion that think tanks play an important role in providing much needed historical contexts to complex issues for European policymakers, particularly the migration crisis, which will continue to affect European society in the future.

Thus, the role of think tanks in the face of quickly proliferating fears across Europe is to keep the debate at a rational level in order to counter fears and myths from policymakers and civil societies throughout Europe. Thus, while the future of Europe lies directly in the hands of policymakers, it is the duty of think tanks to provide critical, innovative, and immediate recommendations that pragmatically address the issues facing the region.



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# Policy and Institutional Challenges

## Migration and Collective Security

The most current and visible crisis currently facing Europe is that of the influx of migrants from Middle East and Northern Africa at Europe's eastern and southern borders. As such, collective security has risen up on the agenda for the region, as all European countries must face the human consequences of escalated violence and chaos in the Middle East. To address the large influx of displaced Syrian migrants seeking refuge within Europe's borders, panelists argued that think tanks must find innovative responses and tools to communicate with different audiences. Due to concerns over xenophobia throughout the region, panelists stressed the public fear over migrants and xenophobia for future immigrant integration efforts. Panelists remarked that the think tank community has a responsibility to prevent the issue of xenophobia from widening any further and that think tanks must provide accurate information regarding the socioeconomic, cultural, and political consequences of a large immigrant presence in the continent. By helping to contextualize a highly complex issue that overlaps with national security interests, think tanks can help allay xenophobic fears amongst the public and provide policymakers with context on the real-life experiences facing migrant populations in Europe.

For other collective security challenges, participants discussed how for the past century, Western Europe has relied on American guarantees, but that the American decline has placed renewed importance on creating a new and more "European" defense system. Some participants remarked that Eastern European defense investments and engagements are increasing, but are balanced tenuously on faltering economies. While Western Europe united over sanctions against Russia, it was out of a desire to avoid further conflict and entrenchment rather than a formation of a coherent security strategy or regime. Additionally, collective security remains a complex and relevant issue in the face of collapsing Western European defense budgets that will most likely fall short on their "2/20" NATO pledges. One participant contended that Europe countries have generally outsourced its security and mainly on the welfare of their own citizens. This system worked well in times of peace, but upon the threat of conflict, one of only real tools left for countries to address conflicts is through economic sanctions. This led to discussion on how think tanks can play an instrumental role in analyzing the logistics of these changes to the European security regime.



## European Integration? Or Autonomy?

Discourse on collective security and migration quickly led into analysis of European integration. One panelist noted that Europeans are “united in diversity and united in perplexity”; they have had much in common for centuries but also possess established and deeply ingrained differences that make quick and effective action difficult. Another panelist remarked that the recent economic and migration crises have exacerbated minor differences that Europeans have not paid close enough attention to during the integration process, particularly in the realm of foreign policy. When such crises hit, the differences unraveled quickly and spoiled the opportunity for a collective and efficient response. As such, the panelists argued that think tanks should play a more active role in overcoming these differences in the future and in providing much needed support for future collective action amongst policymakers.

With the question of whether to integrate further or defend autonomy reverberating through all levels of governance, think tanks, thus, must find innovative ways to contribute to national and regional policy decisions. Specifically, they can contribute by providing multiple options of frameworks for either further integration or for defending autonomy. Think tanks have the potential to serve as rational and results-oriented voices in a debate that is often affected by the fervor of national identities, and European think tanks must step forward and be ready to take on this new role.



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## Europe in Crisis: Time for Innovation

Despite the difficult questions about European integration, participants agreed that there is a growing need for Europe to avoid stagnation. The stigma surrounding European policymakers and think tanks is that there is a lack of effective ‘follow through’ on problems discussed at the intellectual, or “elite” level. One panelist argued that think tanks must be a catalyst for spurring



European motion and decision-making. To do so, think tank innovation can serve to both drive policymakers to faster and more informed decision-making while also connect and inform European civil societies on current, ever-evolving issues.

One panelist suggested that think tanks focus on four key areas: trust, communication, international networks, and timeliness. From this framework, a general consensus was formed in that think tanks must re-examine their role and give up the idea of a one-size-fits-all approach. Participants agreed that think tanks should invest in building trust and communication with policymakers as well the public, while also finding new innovative solutions in addressing organizational concerns of funding and strategic communication.

Another panelist suggested that as we move towards a multipolar world, think tanks must also cover a broader array of topics and to address more countries. However, it is key to acknowledge that one cannot cover everything, therefore, think tanks should make thoughtful choices on what topics and regions they can best research based upon their strategic communication abilities, expertise, etc. Think tank could also tailor their research questions and requests based on the needs of partners, such as universities, the media, donors, policymakers, etc.

As think tanks change their organizational approaches, another panelist raised questions regarding how best to track think tank accomplishments: Is it really possible to track the impact of think tanks on policymakers? How do we determine that the timing was “right” and that the advice communicated by think tanks directly influenced policy outcomes? Several suggestions were proposed regarding organization changes for think tanks to consider. One panelist remarked that his organization engages in an exercise every three years where an independent panel of experts produces a report analyzing the impact of the organization’s research projects. After the report is presented, the organization then engages in an internal discussion on organizational improvements. Participants agreed that such internal evaluation exercises are worthwhile across all types of think tanks and should be analyzed and compared at future European summits.





# Conclusions

In the European context, the biggest difficulty facing the think tank community is how best to address political and socioeconomic questions through a collective regional response. The think tank community can play an important role in serving as the facilitator of constructive dialogue amongst various policymakers in national and transnational decision-making structures while also helping to contextualize and provide accurate information to the general public. By recognizing the unique role of think tanks within the European context, think tanks must work together to share best practices on effective strategies of outreach to a diverse audience.

By being an active participant in today's discourse on ongoing crises, think tanks can maintain relevancy by providing context and long-term solutions to policymakers while also remaining present on current debates and discussions in the media. To do so, European think tanks must engage in a moment of self-reflection to assess what internal organizational changes are needed to ensure that think tanks make sufficient impact upon regional policy decision-making processes and in shaping European societal views on future security and socio-economic concerns. The hope is that through greater collaboration and sharing of ideas, the region will develop into a collaborative think tank community where collective responses can be swift, thoughtful, and make significant impact upon future regional policies.



# Recommendations

- I.** Identify the long-term impact of the refugee crisis for the European continent and develop means by which think tanks can share information and reports to better impact European policymakers on a regional response to the migration crisis.
- II.** Determine the role of think tanks for the future of European integration through more open discourse on how best to balance Economic integration efforts with economic and security needs.
- III.** Increase regional collaboration to ensure access to European policymaking structures and develop ways to track and measure think tank impact on European policies.
- IV.** Discuss regional best practices for European think tanks at future think tank summits.
- V.** Develop collaborative projects on regional economic and security crises to increase think tank engagement.
- VI.** Share ideas on organizational strategies to ensure think tank relevancy and to broaden access for think tanks to a diverse and broader audience.
- VII.** Maintain high integrity in research while also recognizing the importance of think tanks in being engaged with the immediate needs of the public and policymakers on developing crises.
- VIII.** European think tanks should engage in more partnerships with other regional think tanks to capture global narratives of complex issues facing the region.



Attachment 1: 2015 European Think Tank Summit Agenda

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**EUROPEAN  
THINK TANK  
SUMMIT III**

*“GROWTH AND SECURITY:  
IN SEARCH OF A EUROPEAN RESPONSE”*

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***SATURDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2015***

*8h30-9h15*

**Opening Session**

*Chair*

- **JAMES MCGANN**, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania – USA

*Keynote speeches*

- **ANTONIO MISSIROLI**, Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) – France  
*The European Union and its Eastern and Southern borders: up to the task?*
- **NAOYUKI YOSHINO**, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) – Japan  
*The economic relations between Asia and Europe: common challenges and prospects*

*Debate*



**EUROPEAN  
THINK TANK  
SUMMIT III**

**ISPI**

INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STUDIES

9h15-11h15 **Session I****“THE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC CRISIS IN EUROPE”**

*This session will outline the difficult policy choices facing Europe and provide a set of recommendations*

*Chair*

- **KAREL LANNOO**, CEO, Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) – Belgium

*Panelists*

- **YVES BERTONCINI**, Director, Jacques Delors Institute – France
- **MARTIN MICHELOT**, Director of the Global Europe program, European Institute for European Policy – Czech Republic
- **ULF SVERDRUP**, Director, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs, (NUPI) – Norway
- **YURIY YAKIMENKO**, Deputy Director General and Director of Political and Legal Programs, Razumkov Centre – Ukraine

*Debate*

11h15-11h30 Coffee Break

11h30-13h00 **Session II****“EUROPE IN CRISIS: TIME FOR INNOVATIVE ORGANIZATIONS AND POLICIES”**

*A panel of scholars and senior think tank executives will explore how their organizations are transforming their think tanks to respond to a turbulent policy environment and the challenges posed by a fast paced, information rich and highly competitive marketplace of policy advice*

*Chair*

- **NANNA HVIDT**, Director, Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) – Denmark

*Panelists*

- **RAFAEL ESTRELLA**, Vice President, Real Instituto Elcano – Spain
- **STEFAN FRIEDRICH**, Director, Team Policy Dialogue and Analysis Department European and International Cooperation, Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) – Germany
- **ANTONIO VILLAFRANCA**, Head of the European Program, Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) – Italy

*Debate*13h00-13h30 **Conclusions****“POLICY AND STRATEGY FORMULATION SESSION”**

*This final session aims to make a series of actionable recommendations for policymakers, think tanks and donors. The objective is to capture the input of the participants to be reflected in the Summit Reports (Global and Europe)*

- **PAOLO MAGRI**, Executive Vice President and Director, Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) – Italy
- **JAMES MCGANN**, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania – USA

13h30 Buffet Lunch



**Attachment 2: Participant List**

<b>Participant Name</b>	<b>Participant Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Country</b>
Abdullah, Jamal	Researcher, Gulf Studies Unit	Al Jazeera Centre for Studies	Qatar
Al, Nazife	Secretary General	Centre for Economic and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)	Turkey
Alloisio, Isabella	Senior Researcher	Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)	Italy
Al-Nuaimi, Sanad Ali	Commander	Strategic Studies Center	Qatar
Aragona, Giancarlo	President	Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)	Italy
Arnold, Tom	Director General	Institute for International Political Studies (IIEA)	Ireland
Bacaria, Jordi	Director	Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB)	Spain
Banerjee, Dipankar	Co-Founder; Member Board of Governors	Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS); Forum for Strategic Initiatives (FSI)	India
Barbi, Fernando	Economist	Quantum Global Research Lab	Switzerland
Bertoncini, Yves	Director	Jacques Delors Institute	France
Biersteker, Thomas Joseph	Gasteyer Professor of International Security and Director	Program for the Study of International Governance, The Graduate Institute	Switzerland
Çağlar, Esen	Deputy Managing Director	Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV)	Turkey
Carnero, Carlos	Managing Director	Fundación Alternativas	Spain
Castro, Celso	Dean, School of Sciences	Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV)	Brazil
Chicama, Jose Luis	Director General	Ethos Public Policy Lab Mexico	Mexico
Chirathivat, Suthiphand	Executive Director, ASEAN Studies Center	Chula Global Network, Chulalongkorn University	Thailand
Cohen-Hadria, Emmanuel	Chief Officer for Euro-Mediterranean Policies	European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)	Spain
Çolakoglu, Selcuk	Vice President	International Strategic Research Organization (USAK)	Turkey
Colombo, Alessandro	General Director	Éupolis	Italy
Cowger, Sela	Rapporteur	Think Tanks and Civil Societies	USA





		Program	
Dann, Matt	Secretary General	Bruegel	Belgium
Drobyshevskiy, Sergey	Academic Director	Gaidar Institute for Economic Policy (IEP)	Russia
Durkalec, Jacek	Manager, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control Project	Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM)	Poland
Dynkin, Alexander	Director	Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO RAS)	Russia
El Aynaoui, Karim	Managing Director	OCP Policy Center	Morocco
El Diwany, Sherif	Executive Director	Egyptian Center for Economic Studies	Egypt
Estrella, Rafael	Vice President	Real Instituto Elcano	Spain
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Glovinsky, Steve	Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary	UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Ethiopia
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Greco, Ettore	Director	Instituto Affari Internazionali (IAI)	Italy
Grevi, Giovanni	Director	Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior (FRIDE)	Spain
Guruswamy, Mohan	President; Member Board of Governors	Centre for Policy Alternatives; Forum for Strategic Initiatives (FSI)	India
Hamdok, Abdalla	Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist	UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)	Ethiopia
Hanafi, Ali Khaled Mahmoud	Senior Researcher	Regional Center for Strategic Studies (RCSS)	Egypt



Hendytio, Medelina	Deputy Executive Director	Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)	Indonesia
Hove, Seedwell	Macroeconomist	Quantum Global Research Lab	Switzerland
Huang, Youyi	Secretary-General of the International Advisory Board	The Charhar Institute	People's Republic of China
Hussein, Elkamel	International Cooperation Senior Partner	Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs	Egypt
Hvidt, Nanna	Director	Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS)	Denmark
Iijima, Toshiro	Deputy Director-General	The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)	Japan
Ingram, Kelsey	Rapporteur	Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program	USA
Jaramillo, Ricardo Miguel	Executive Director	Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE)	Peru
Jordan, Mary Beth	Executive Officer to the President and Director of Strategic Initiatives	Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)	USA
Ke, Yinbin	Secretary-General	The Charhar Institute	People's Republic of China
Kim, Heungchong	Senior Research Fellow	Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP)	Korea
Lamberti, Alba	Senior Director for Advocacy	European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)	UK
Lange, Nico	Deputy Director for Political Consulting	Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS)	Germany
Lannoo, Karel	CEO	Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS)	Belgium
Lauster, Gitta	Special Assistant to the Director	German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP)	Germany
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Li, Xia	Supervisor of International Communication	The Charhar Institute	People's Republic of China



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McCarthy, John	President	Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA)	Australia
McGann, James	Director	Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, The Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania	USA
Miao, Lu	Executive Secretary General	Center for China and Globalization (CCG)	People's Republic of China
Michelot, Martin	Director of the Global Europe Program	Europeum Institute for European Policy	France
Missiroli, Antonio	Director	European Union Institute for Secretary Studies (EUISS)	France
Monti, Mario	Former Italian Prime Minister; Former EU Commissioner; Honorary President	Breugel, Bocconi University	Italy
Musso, Carlo	Head of Studies, Research and Market Analysis	Finmeccanica	Italy
Nixey, James	Head, Russia and Eurasia Programme	Chatham House (the Royal Institute of International Affairs)	UK
Ochieng, Cosmas Milton Obote	Executive Director	African Center for Technology Studies	Kenya
Onokerhoraye,	Executive Director	Center for Population and	Nigeria



Andrew Godwin		Environmental Development (CPED)	
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Piccone, Theodore	Senior Fellow Foreign Policy	Brookings Institution	USA
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Prakash, Anita	Director General Policy Relations	Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)	Indonesia
Rachok, Anatoliy	Director General	Razumkov Centre	Ukraine
Ratti, Sabina	Executive Director	Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (FEEM)	Italy
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Rogova, Natalia	Senior Research Fellow	Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies (ISKRAN)	Russia
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Schippa, Camilla	Director	Institute for Economics and Peace	Australia
Seif Afjei, Massoumeh Minou	Deputy Director for Europe	Institute for Political & International Studies (IPIS)	Iran
Selee, Andrew	Executive Vice President	Woodrow Wilson Center	USA
Selmani-Bornstein, Zarife	Advisor	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	Switzerland
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Shin, Bongkil	President	Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS)	Korea
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## ORGANIZERS AND HOSTS



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# About ISPI

## INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL STUDIES

The Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) is an independent think tank serving as a resource for government officials, business executives, journalists, civil servants, students and the all wishing to better understand international issues. Founded in Milan in 1934, ISPI approach international affairs in a sound pragmatic manner, monitoring geopolitical areas as well as major global trends. Comprehensive interdisciplinary analysis is ensured by close collaboration with specialists, academic and non-academic, in political, economic, legal, historical and strategic studies and an ever-growing network of think tanks, research centers and universities in Europe and abroad.

The Institute's activities branch out in four major directions:

- producing reports with original research and policy prescriptions on central international topics;
- providing up-to-date information and insights on world events and Italy/Europe's perspectives through its website and online publications;
- convening meetings at its headquarters in Milan, as well as in Rome and other cities, where policymakers, business leaders, and high-level thinkers join ISPI's experts to discuss major international issues;
- training the future generations of Italian diplomats and professionals of governmental and non-governmental international organizations.

# About TTCSP

## THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 25 years, the TTCSP has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare and global health. These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world.



The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs, and produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world's leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists, donors and the public to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. Our goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe. Since its inception in 1989, the TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policymaking process. In 2007, the TTCSP developed and launched the global index of think tanks, which is designed to identify and recognize centers of excellence in all the major areas of public policy research and in every region of the world. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. We are now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.

### **THE LAUDER INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an MA in international studies, and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political, and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners and policy makers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality, and the future of the state.

### **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of a dynamic city. Founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 and recognized as America's first university, Penn remains today a world-renowned center for the creation and dissemination of knowledge. It serves as a model for research colleges and universities throughout the world.

