

ESSEX SUMMER SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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August 2025



A huge thank you to our participants, instructors and Summer School team!

As we reflect on another extraordinary summer, I'm filled with immense pride at what our Summer School team accomplished this year. We brought together brilliant minds, creating an environment where academic excellence flourished alongside meaningful friendships and experiences.

Our three sessions offered 42 carefully curated courses, taught by 45 instructors who travelled from every corner of the world to share their expertise with our students. From intensive classes to hands-on workshops, each course was designed to challenge, inspire, and transform our participants' understanding of their chosen fields.

As you'll see in the pages that follow, this summer was truly special. We can't wait to welcome you back next year for another year of academic adventure and personal growth.

-Roxi Powell, Essex Summer School Coordinator





Three Sessions of Excellence

This summer, we welcomed 45 outstanding instructors from universities and institutions around the world. They contributed far more than their teaching expertise - joining social events, offering informal mentorship, and building lasting connections with students and colleagues. Their diverse backgrounds and perspectives enriched every aspect of the Summer School, demonstrating the power of international academic collaboration.

Session 1: Monday 7 July – Friday 18 July 2025

Session 1 opened the summer with 17 courses that combined strong methodological foundations with innovative approaches to social science research. From introductory classes to advanced workshops, highlights included quantitative text analysis, qualitative interviewing, agent-based modelling, and web scraping. With in-person, online, and hybrid formats, plus morning Mathematics sessions, students could tailor their learning environment while building the skills needed for success.

Session 2: Monday 21 July – Friday 1 August 2025

Session 2 offered 18 courses spanning the full spectrum of contemporary social science methods - from classic statistical techniques to cutting-edge machine learning. Standout topics included AI-enhanced research design, spatial econometrics, multimodal language data analysis, and immersive ethnographic methods. This session placed a strong emphasis on integrating technological innovation with rigorous methodology, equipping students for the evolving landscape of academic research.

Session 3: Monday 4 August - Friday 15 August 2025

Session 3 delivered a fully online programme of 7 expertly designed courses, enabling global participation while upholding the high academic standards of the Essex Summer School. Highlights included generative AI for social science research, deep learning for text and vision, multilevel modelling, and survey experimental design. Through interactive workshops and real-time collaboration, the session demonstrated the power of digital learning to create a vibrant, connected academic community.

The full list of 2025 courses is available [here](#)



Distinguished Voices

The Harold Clarke Speaker Series continued its tradition of bringing renowned scholars to share their expertise with our Summer School community.

This year's four speakers offered fascinating insights that complemented our academic programme and inspired students to think beyond traditional boundaries.



China's Perceived Rise and Public Preferences for Cooperating or Confronting Strategies: Evidence from Survey Experiments in France, Germany, and the UK

Professor Jason Reifler, University of Southampton



Estimating Causal Effects in Panel Data with Endogenous Treatments: A Machine Learning Approach Using Instrumental Variables

Dr Annalivia Polselli, University of Essex



When The Tail Wags the Dog: Climate Exposure and News Media Behaviour in the Global South

Professor Federica Genovese, University of Oxford



Does Preferential Hiring Compromise Merit? Exact Matching Analysis of Veterans' Preference in U.S. Federal Employment

Associate Professor Robert Walker, Atkinson Graduate School of Management, Willamette University

Reflections and Looking Ahead

As we reflect on this year's achievements, we're already planning innovations and improvements for Summer School 2026. Based on your feedback and observations, we're exploring expanded course offerings, additional Harold Clarke Speaker Series presentations, and new social programme elements that build on this year's successful events.

Applications for Summer School 2026 will open in early 2026, and we encourage anyone interested in joining us to visit our website and keep an eye on our social media for detailed information about courses, application procedures, and scholarship opportunities.



STAFF REFLECTIONS



Ellie Giger joined the Essex Summer School team this summer as Events Assistant, bringing enthusiasm, creativity, and a talent for keeping things running smoothly. From coordinating logistics to supporting social activities, she played a key role in delivering a seamless experience for participants. Ellie has since moved on to a full-time role, but here she reflects on her time at the Summer School.

[Read more](#)

Beth Williams joined the Essex Summer School team this summer as Administrative Assistant, keeping everything organised behind the scenes and bringing positive energy to the office every day. Her efficiency, good humour, and dedication made her an invaluable part of the team. Before moving on to her next academic chapter, Beth shared a few reflections on her Summer School experience.

[Read more](#)

THANK YOU!

The success of Essex Summer School 2025 reflects the contributions of every member of our community.

To our **students** – thank you for bringing such enthusiasm, curiosity, and openness to every experience. To our **instructors** – thank you for sharing your expertise with such dedication and care. To our **staff** – thank you for the countless hours of preparation and support that made everything possible. Keep in touch!

Warm wishes,

The Essex Summer School Team