



Wednesday 19 July 2023

Oration for Max Steuer

Vice-Chancellor, Max Steuer has had a close association with the School for 60 years. He came to the School in 1958 as a PhD student in Economics and joined the Faculty a year later under the convenorship of Eli Devons to a department still dominated by Lionel Robbins. In his early days in the Department he wrote some influential papers at the interface of Trade and Development Economics and in Macro-Labour, notably in joint work with Richard Lipsey. At this time he played a key role in the development of the famous MSc in Economics, one of the first degrees of its kind in the world. Max was key to the development of the course in Methods of Economic Investigation taken by many well-known economists. In the early 1970s Max spent several years on leave as the Head of the Economics Department at the University of Ghana. On his return to the School in the mid 1970s Max played the lead role in developing a structured PhD programme in the Economics Department and ran the first and second year PhD seminars for many years. In this, he mentored dozens of PhD students, a large number of whom have gone on to significant achievements. Towards the end of his long career in the Economics Department Max served two terms as an effective and dedicated Dean of the Graduate School. He has throughout been one of the great pillars of the Economics Department. Max has also served on uncountable School Committees and as an Academic Member of Council.

Outside of Academia Max has many interests. He was a hot air balloonist with World Records for Altitude, Distance and Duration in 1984. He is also a keen musician and plays bass guitar and produced and wrote the script for the feature film "The Committee".

Although very much an Economist, Max is the embodiment of the interdisciplinary social scientist. His publications include *Mathematical Sociology* (with Janet Holland), *The Impact of Foreign Direct Investment on the United Kingdom* (Steuer et al.) and *The Scientific Study of Society*. This latter book uniquely approaches a variety of important questions, including crime, housing, money, migration, religion and the family, from the viewpoint of all the five major social sciences. His most recent book is about Economic Policy.

Post formal retirement Max continued to play an important role in the School as Research Director of the Centre for Philosophy of Natural and Social Science, which he helped establish. Here he set up the MSc in Economics and Philosophy and convened the student seminar. He also ran the research seminar and edited the discussion paper series.

Amongst his other significant commitments to the School, Max was responsible for conceiving the Cities Programme in the mid-1990s. He was able to secure a significant grant from the Ove Arup Foundation and established the new programme in 1998/99. The Cities Programme has since developed into one of the School's established teaching and research centres, dedicated to making an intellectual connection between the social sciences and the built environment, a lifelong passion of Max's. As a teacher he contributed to the

development of the master's programme curriculum and he acted as an ambassador for the initiative across the School's administrative and academic bodies. Without Max's commitment and energy, LSE Cities and its associated activities would not have been established at LSE.

On behalf of the School, I would like to acknowledge and thank Max for his exceptional contribution to LSE and its community. Max has shown an unwavering commitment to advancing education, learning and research for the public benefit. He has gone above and beyond over a sustained period of time, and as a community we are immensely grateful.

Vice-Chancellor, I ask that Max Steuer be admitted as an Honorary Fellow of the London School of Economics and Political Science.