

# Oscar Nowlan

PHD CANDIDATE · LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, HOUGHTON ST, LONDON WC2A 2AE

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## POSITIONS

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2025 – present      Research Fellow, LSE Cities      LSE, UK  
Research project: “City Government Innovation for Extreme Crises, Risks and Emergency Governance”

## EDUCATION

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2022 – present      PhD Political Science      LSE, UK  
Thesis title: “Blame Avoidance and Blame Attribution in Government”  
Affiliations: LSE Centre for Analysis of Risk and Regulation.  
Supervisor: Prof. Martin Lodge  
Advisor: Prof. Edward Page  
Defence Scheduled June 2026

2021 – 2022      MRes Political Science      LSE, UK

2018 – 2020      MSc Public Policy and Management      BIRKBECK, UK

2011 – 2015      BA Russian and History      UCL, UK

## PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. **Judging the Blame Game: How Do Citizens React to Blame Shifting in Public Service Delivery?** 2026. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. Awarded EPG Best Paper at PSA 2025. [Link here](#).

### UNDER REVIEW

2. **Public Service Delegation and the Mechanisms of Blame Attribution: Evidence from a Survey Experiment on Public Service Failure** *Revise and resubmit at Public Administration Review*. Draft available upon request.

### IN PROGRESS

3. **How Do We Establish the Influence of Blame Avoidance in Policymaking? Lessons from the Case of Public Health England**. Draft available upon request.
4. **Policy Crowding and Coupling: Mapping the Organisation of Policy Areas across UK Government**. Draft available upon request.
5. **Do Blame Avoidance Strategies Work? Evidence from a Systematic Review**.
6. **Emerging Innovations in Emergency Management: City Governments and the Rise of Risk Registers**. With M. Lodge (LSE).
7. **Sectoral Embedding or Centralised Capacity? Appointing AI Regulators in EU Member States**.

## TEACHING

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2026      Regulatory Analysis (PP488E): Teaching Fellow.      LSE, UK  
2025 – 2026      Public Policy Analysis (GV263): Graduate Teaching Assistant.      LSE, UK

2025	Public Policy in Practice (PP4G9E): Teaching Fellow.	LSE, UK
2025	Regulatory Analysis (PP488E): Teaching Fellow.	LSE, UK
2024	Public Policy Analysis (IR214): Graduate Teaching Assistant.	LSE, UK
2024	Regulatory Analysis (PP488E): Teaching Fellow.	LSE, UK
2023	Public Policy Analysis (IR214): Graduate Teaching Assistant.	LSE, UK
2022 – 2023	Public Policy Analysis (GV263): Graduate Teaching Assistant.	LSE, UK

## FUNDING AND GRANTS

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2021 – 2025	Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) PhD Studentship.	FULL STIPEND AND TUITION
2024	LSE Grantham Institute PhD Support Grant.	£1,400

## PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

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### INVITED SEMINAR TALKS

2025	University of York Public Policy Cluster	YORK, UK
2024	LSE Seminar Series on Public Policy and Administration Research	LONDON, UK

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Upcoming (2026)	European Network for Public Administration Conference	BUCHAREST, ROMANIA
Upcoming (2026)	Midwest Political Science Association Conference	VIRTUAL
2026	Political Studies Association Annual International Conference	OXFORD, UK
2025	Political Studies Association Annual International Conference	BIRMINGHAM, UK
2025	International Research Society for Public Management Conference	BOLOGNA, ITALY
2024	UK Association for Public Administration Conference	BIRMINGHAM, UK
2023	American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition	VIRTUAL
2023	International Conference on Public Policy	TORONTO, CANADA
2023	Political Studies Association Annual International Conference	LIVERPOOL, UK

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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Reviewer	Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory; Journal of Public Policy; Brill   Nijhoff.
Memberships	APSA (2023-present); PSA (2023-present); IRSPM (2025-present).
Organiser	LSE Government Writing Workshop (2023-2024).
Committees	LSE Government Teaching Committee - MRes representative (2021-2022).

## PRIZES AND AWARDS

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2025	Political Studies Association Executive Politics and Governance Specialist Group 'Best PSA Conference Paper Award'.
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## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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2019 – 2021	Senior Policy Advisor	HM TREASURY, UK
2018 – 2019	Policy Advisor	DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, DIGITAL, MEDIA AND SPORT, UK
2016 – 2018	Graduate Management Trainee (NGDP)	LONDON BOROUGH OF BARNET, UK
2016	Policy and Research Intern	NESTA, UK

SKILLS

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Languages English (Native); Russian (Advanced).

Software and computing R;  $\LaTeX$ ; Qualtrics; NVivo.