

Oscar Nowlan

PhD Candidate & Research Fellow, London School of Economics and Political Science

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Academic Positions

Max Weber Fellow (incoming), European University Institute	From Sept 2026
Research Fellow, LSE Cities	2025–present
Project: City Government Innovation for Crises, Risks and Emergency Governance	

Education

PhD Political Science, LSE (defence scheduled July 2026)	2022–present
MRes Political Science, LSE	2021–22
MSc Public Policy and Management, Birkbeck UoL	2018–20
BA History (with Russian language), UCL	2011–15

Research

Peer-reviewed Articles

1. Judging the Blame Game: How Do Citizens React to Blame Shifting in Public Service Delivery? *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* (2026). [Open access](#).
2. Public Service Delegation and the Mechanisms of Blame Attribution: Evidence from a Survey Experiment on Public Service Failure. *Public Administration Review* (conditionally accepted).

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.
5. Emerging Innovations in Emergency Management: City Governments and the Rise of Risk Registers. With M. Lodge.
6. Do Blame Avoidance Strategies Work? Evidence from a Systematic Review.
7. Sectoral Embedding or Centralised Capacity? Appointing AI Regulators in EU Member States.

Teaching

Teaching Fellow, Regulatory Analysis (PP488E), LSE	2024, 2025, 2026
Teaching Fellow, Public Policy in Practice (PP4G9E), LSE	2025
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Public Policy Analysis (GV263), LSE	2022–23, 2025–26
Graduate Teaching Assistant, Public Policy Analysis (IR214), LSE	2023, 2024

Presentations and Talks

2026 European Network for Public Administration Conference (Bucharest); Midwest Political Science Association Conference (Virtual); Political Studies Association Annual Conference (Oxford)
2025 Political Studies Association Annual Conference (Birmingham); International Research Society for Public Management Conference (Bologna); University of York Public Policy Cluster
2024 UK Association for Public Administration Conference (Birmingham); LSE Seminar Series on Public Policy and Administration Research
2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual); International Conference on Public Policy (Toronto); Political Studies Association Annual Conference (Liverpool)

Reviewer Service

Journal of Public Policy; Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory; Public Management Review; Brill | Nijhoff

Funding and Grants

ESRC PhD Studentship (full stipend and tuition)	2021–25
LSE Grantham Institute PhD Support Grant (£1,400)	2024

Prizes and Awards

PSA Executive Politics and Governance Specialist Group Best Conference Paper Award	2025
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Other Professional Experience

Senior Policy Advisor, HM Treasury (UK Civil Service)	2019–21
Policy Advisor, Department for Culture, Digital, Media and Sport (UK Civil Service)	2018–19
Graduate Management Trainee, London Borough of Barnet	2016–18
Policy and Research Intern, Nesta	2016

Languages and Skills

English (native); Russian (B2)
R; L^AT_EX; Quarto; Qualtrics; NVivo; Rayyan