



# Centre for Teaching and Learning Economics

## Annual Report

Date: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022

## Contents

<b>Director's Message .....</b>	<b>2</b>
Background .....	3
Organisational structure .....	3
<b>Research .....</b>	<b>5</b>
Projects .....	5
Publications:.....	5
Conferences: .....	6
<b>Advisory Services.....</b>	<b>6</b>
Economics Training and Educational Guidance .....	7
Regulation advisory .....	7
Affiliations with External Bodies .....	7
<b>Events and Communication .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Events.....	8
Social Media and Engagement .....	10
Blogs.....	10
<b>Outreach .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Widening Participation .....	11
Awards and Recognition .....	12
<b>Educational Enhancement Activities within our institutions .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Priorities for the year ahead .....</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Get in touch with CTaLE .....</b>	<b>13</b>



*Explore Econ 2022 Student Conference*

## Director's Message

The [Centre for Teaching and Learning Economics](#) (CTaLE) has gone from strength to strength since its establishment in 2015. Through a range of advisory work, events, and research it has connected economics educators from around the world by offering a space to develop ideas and practice related to the improvement of economics training and teaching.

This report reviews CTaLE's activity from September 2021 to July 2022, reflecting on the Centre's work across the key areas of research; advisory services; outreach, and education-related events. These key areas, established in 2020/21, provide a clearer view of the Centre's work, successes, and areas of focus for the coming academic year.

The Centre's work with high profile academic institutions, governmental organisations such as the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office ([FCDO](#)), and regulatory bodies, shows that CTaLE now has an established reputation in providing bespoke advice and delivering economics education. These working partnerships and affiliations will encourage greater networking and funding opportunities that will contribute to the Centre's future growth.

In 2021-22, CTaLE built upon the success of its key initiatives including the EconTEAching seminar series and its flagship TeachECONference event. Anecdotal feedback indicates the EconTEAching seminars are highly valued by economics educators as safe space to discuss and exchange ideas and issues, particularly during the pandemic. A surprising amount of interest and engagement has continued as we move to post-Covid times. Attendance data from TeachECONference 2022 also indicates that CTaLE's geographical reach has expanded beyond its primary audiences in the UK and North America, with attendance from academics in Europe and India. The range of topics and speakers demonstrate the integral role CTaLE's Associate Members play in its activities. Additionally, the free and online nature of these events mean that they are accessible and convenient for the needs of CTaLE's global community, something that has been highlighted repeatedly in feedback from participants.

The breadth of outreach work carried out by CTaLE includes the delivery of a Summer School in collaboration with the [Sutton Trust](#) and [UCL Access and Widening Participation](#). CTaLE's successful bid for external funds from the [Royal Economics Society's](#) Discover Economics initiative to deliver a cross institutional Widening Participation workshop with LSE and Imperial College London points to a greater opportunity for increased collaboration outside UCL, enabling it to reach new generation of prospective economists.

The Centre's research work continues to provide insight into areas that are significant to CTaLE's mission, such as reducing the BAME Awarding Gap. Annual student-facing initiatives at UCL such as the Explore Econ conference and the Laidlaw Scholarship Research projects have increased staff-student collaboration in the educational experience, with students taking part in co-curricular activities that include academic research, panels, and as well as more operational work such as serving on the executive committee for Explore Econ. This year also saw CTaLE staff attend and present at more than five major academic research conferences.

The Centre was awarded a 4-year £1 million contract with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) Economics for Foreign Policy (EFP) which concluded in July 2022. The training was highly regarded by those that attended the course, and it remained over-subscribed until its completion. Looking ahead, CTaLE is especially keen to engage with new stakeholders interested in bespoke economics training as well as programme and module design consultancy in economics and related areas. The annual report is part of the endeavor to ensure CTaLE remains an impactful and inclusive institution, with a robust reputation as experts in economics education and education consultancy.

## Background

CTaLE was established in 2015 and operates from its physical base at [University College London](#) (UCL). Its purpose is to bring together economics educators from around to share and improve best practice in teaching economics to prepare a new generation of students for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It does this through seminars, walks, social media, training, research, and events. CTaLE's funding for external events and operational expenditures derives from a mixture of consultancy income and sponsorships.

## Organisational structure

CTaLE co-founder, Cloda Jenkins said goodbye to the UCL Department of Economics, moving to a new position as [Professorial Teaching Fellow in Economics and Public Policy](#) at Imperial College London in January 2022. She remains active in her role as CTaLE Associate Director.

CTaLE Director Parama Chaudhury was appointed as UCL [Pro-Vice-Provost Education](#) (Student Academic Experience) from June 2022. During this tenure, she will remain in post as CTaLE Director and Professor (Teaching) in the UCL Department of Economics.

CTaLE said farewell to its Centre Manager, Madeleine Adamson, who moved to a new position with [UCL Consultants \(UCLC\)](#). CTaLE have continued to work with UCLC on consultancy projects and as such, with Maddy as well. She is succeeded as CTaLE Manager by Manishaben Patel, who has a background in Higher Education Marketing and Centre Management.

The CTaLE [Advisory Board](#) was established in January 2022. The Advisory Board was founded to help guide CTaLE on its branding and values as its reputation grows as well as provide insight into potential funding and its operation status. Since October 2021, Advisory Board Members have played an increased role in CTaLE branded activities.

### **Leadership and Management Team**

(Strategy, operations, and delivery)

- Director, [Parama Chaudhury](#) (UCL)
- Associate Director, [Cloda Jenkins](#) (Imperial College London)
- Centre Manager, Manishaben Patel

#### **Advisory Board**

(Advise Management Team)

- [Abdullah Al-Bahrani](#), Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Studies and Research (Northern Kentucky)
- [Emer Girling](#), Teaching and Learning Manager (UCL)
- [Denise Hawkes](#), Head of School of Economics, Finance and Law (Anglia Ruskin),
- [John Mitchell](#), Professor of Communications Systems Engineering, Vice-Dean Education (UCL)
- [Christian Spielmann](#), Reader of Economics Education (University of Bristol)
- [Frank Witte](#), Associate Professor (Teaching) and Departmental Tutor (UCL)

#### **CTaLE Members**

(Co-responsible for delivering strategy)

- [Silvia dal Bianco](#), Lecturer (Teaching) in Economics (UCL)
- [Ramin Nassehi](#), Lecturer (Teaching) in Economics (UCL)

#### **CTaLE Associates**

- [Antonio Cabrales](#), Full Professor (Research Chair in Economics) (Universidad Carlos III de Madrid)
- [Annika Johnson](#), Senior Lecturer in Economics (Bristol)
- [Dunli Li](#), Lecturer (Teaching) in Economics (UCL)
- [Lorenzo Lotti](#), Associate Professor (Teaching) in Economics of Energy and the Environment (UCL)
- [Doug McKee](#), Senior Lecturer in Economics (Cornell)
- [Stefania Paredes Fuentes](#), Associate Professor & Deputy Director UG Studies Economics (Warwick)
- [Michela Tincani](#), Lecturer in Economics (UCL)
- [Marcos Vera Hernandez](#), Professor of Economics & BSc Admissions Tutor (UCL)

*CTaLE Organisational Structure 2021/2022*

## Research

CTaLE has had an active year in research with the continuation of projects under the umbrella of the BAME Awarding gap project, as well as Adaptable Economics Education. CTaLE also contributed to new projects such as the Imperial College London Student Shapers project, and Anatomy of Assessment. With the return of in-person events, Members were able to attend conferences to present papers and forthcoming publications, and to engage directly with fellow Economists on CTaLE's mission and work.

### Projects

#### Adaptable Economics Education

CTaLE Leads: Parama Chaudhury, Silvia dal Bianco and Cloda Jenkins

The [Adaptable Economics Education](#) guide contains principles, tips, and tools on how to change an economics course so that it is adaptable and resilient to exogenous shocks such as a global pandemic. The guide was presented as a working paper to the Audeo, SEA 2021 and CTREE 2021 conferences. Silvia is working on producing an updated online format of the Guide.

#### Anatomy of Assessment

CTaLE Lead: Cloda Jenkins

The 'Anatomy of Assessment' is a cross university Student Shapers project at Imperial College London. Lecturer and Student viewpoints on best practice assessment methods are being collated in case study format which will be shared in an online tool accessible across the university.

#### UCL BAME Awarding Gap Project

CTaLE Lead: Parama Chaudhury (co-lead of the project and chair of UCL BAME Fund Steering group)  
Analysis of UCL data has revealed there to be a small but statistically significant discrepancy in the outcomes and experience of undergraduate Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) students with UK domicile compared with their white counterparts. The [BAME Awarding Gap](#) project aims address these disparities.

#### [Channelling the BAME student voice to unveil the hidden curriculum and build an inclusive learning community](#) (part of the UCL BAME Awarding Gap Project)

CTaLE Leads: Silvia dal Bianco with Marcos Vera Hernandez (CTaLE Associate)

A three-year project which explores the lived experience of BAME students in the UCL Social & Historical Sciences Faculty. Student feedback indicated that many BAME students felt disconnected from the UCL Economics Community. The project has so far led to the creation of the Student Inclusivity Champions. In the coming year, the project will build upon the success of the [First Year Challenge](#) multimedia assignment by introducing the Second Year Challenge (SYC) group video project.

### Publications

- Parama and Abdullah Al-Bahrani (CTaLE Advisory Board Member) began work on their Online Education Economics book (Elgar, forthcoming). Ramin is amongst the contributors. The book also includes a chapter by Cloda and Parama (that was also presented at CTREE); "Using an online multimedia group project to introduce students to economics and their learning community".

- Former CTaLE Manager, Madeline Adamson and student partners Yong June Hong and Yi Thong Tay published a case study on TeachECONference2021, "[Student Voice in Academic Education Conferences paper in Journal of Educational Innovation, Partnership and Change](#)"
- Parama and Cloda drafted a chapter, "Inclusivity and Student Engagement" for CTaLE Associate Stefania Paredes Fuentes' forthcoming book "Teaching Macroeconomics: A Modern and Inclusive Approach".

## Conferences

- [Audeo Foundation's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Seminar](#), 28-29 October 2021. Cloda and Parama presented on the Adaptable Education Model.
- [Southern Economics Conference 2021](#) Cloda and Parama presented on the Adaptable Education Guide and Ramin presented on the Economics Walk.
- [AEA ASSA Annual Meeting, 7-9 January 2022](#): Cloda and Parama presented a poster on "Building a Learning Community Using a Multimedia Group Project". Silvia will present a poster on Cryptocurrencies, and Parama will discuss a paper "Utilizing Undergraduate Teaching Assistants to Enhance Learning" by Rita Balaban and Michelle Sheran-Andrews at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- American Economic Association (AEA) [CTREE 2022](#) Conference, 1-3 June 2022. Anecdotal feedback indicates that CTaLE's reputation has expanded, and that their events were appreciated by the Economics Education Community. Parama received some suggestions for a "Global Community of Practice", which requires discussion and development with the Advisory Board. In addition to either presiding and/or acting as discussant, all CTaLE Members presented papers:
  - Parama (with CTaLE Associate) Michela Tincani, "Risk Aversion and Over-confidence in the Classroom"
  - Parama and Cloda, "Using an online multimedia group project to introduce students to economics and their learning community"
  - Ramin, "UCL Economics Walk: A Place-Based Method of Teaching Economics"
  - Silvia, "Unveiling the Hidden Curriculum for Closing the BAME Awarding Gap. A Case Study from UCL Economics Department".
- TeachECONference2022, from 27-29 June 2022, and co-hosted with Douglas McKee (Cornell University). Ramin presented on the asynchronous track "[Spotlight on Students: A Podcast Interview with Students About Their Learning Journey](#)".
- Ramin presented a UCL Economics Walk paper for [AdvancedHE Teaching and Learning Conference](#), 5-7 July 2022.
- Ramin's Paper 'Spotlight on Students' has been accepted for the Southern Economics Association Conference November 19-21, 2022.

## Advisory Services

Since September 2021 CTaLE staff have continued their advisory services and taken on new roles on a pro bono basis. As the list below will confirm CTaLE staff provide bespoke advisory services to broad range of clients from education institutions to regulatory bodies.



### Economics Training and Educational Guidance

- The FCDO extended the [Economics for Foreign Policy \(EFP\)](#) project until July 2022. The training delivered was highly regarded and praised for boosting accessibility to overseas staff thanks to its online format which had been established well before the Covid-19 pandemic. The FCDO/EFP project welcomed Cohorts 10, 11 and 12. Parama, Cloda and CTaLE Members and Associates provided induction sessions, content updates, meetings, and office hours in addition to workshops and course learnings.
- Parama completed work on a project on financial literacy for [The Money and Pensions Service](#), who are sponsored by the UK Department for Work and Pensions.
- Parama was appointed Chair of the 2022 [Quality Assurance Agency \(QAA\)](#) Economics Benchmark Statement Review. Advisory Board Members included student and employer representatives.
- As Chair of the Royal Economic Society's Education and Training CPD subcommittee, Parama organised a series of sessions on teaching and communicating economics and supporting teaching track careers.
- Silvia acted as External Examiner at the [University of Bath](#).
- Cloda hosted a session for the [Economics Network Graduate Teaching Assistant \(GTA\) Workshop](#) in October 2021. UCL will host the 2022 workshop, which will take place in person. Cloda is introducing GTA training for Business School Teaching Assistants at Imperial College London from September 2022.
- Cloda has renewed her contract to act as an External Examiner for [Swansea University](#), which included providing feedback to lecturers on writing online assessments.
- As a member of the [European Economics Association](#) (EEA) Education Committee, Cloda is leading work to compare undergraduate economics education across European universities. The work involves running a survey and analysing the results, with a plan to discuss findings with colleagues in an online workshop in late October 2022.

### Regulation Advisory

- Cloda has ongoing advisory work for the Water Services Regulation Authority [Ofwat](#), for example on how to design incentives for long-term service improvement.
- Cloda has also advised the [UK Regulators Network](#) (UKRN). Their work has focused on government interventions in regulation and helping vulnerable consumers.
- Parama led CTaLE's response to the [UCL strategic plan 2022-27 consultation](#), within the scope of Education priorities and programmes. She was supported in this work by CTaLE members and Frank, Emer and Michela.

### Affiliations with External Bodies

- Cloda has become a member of the [Royal Economic Society Education Committee](#).
- Ramin judged the Royal Economic Society essay competition "[Young Economist of the Year 2021](#)" aimed at Year 12 and Year 13 students.
- Cloda is contributing to the development of the Economy 2.0 with CORE colleagues.



## Events and Communication

The end of lockdown restrictions in the UK in Summer 2021 meant that most academic activity slowly returned to in-person format. The majority of CTaLE activity continues to be delivered online as the format fits in well with the needs of its global and diverse community. That both the TeachECONference and EconTEaching seminars have run successfully for three years indicates ongoing demand for sharing best practice on economics education in an inclusive and accessible format. This implies that CTaLE's core events such as EconTEaching and TeachECONference should remain online and free, in line with its commitment to lowering barriers for economics educators especially those that at the early career stage.

### Events

#### *EconTEaching Seminar Series*

The third annual [EconTEaching](#) seminar series totaled seven online sessions featuring practitioners and academic teaching staff from the UK, USA, and Australia in 2021-22. The seminars are organised in partnership with [Stefania Paredes Fuentes](#) (University of Warwick) and provide an informal space for members of the CTaLE community to discuss topics and themes that are integral to delivery of Economics education. Since their inception at the start of the pandemic, the seminars have been delivered online. A recent CTaLE Survey disseminated in March 2022 confirmed that respondents overwhelmingly wanted the seminars to continue in their online format<sup>1</sup>.

<b>EconTEaching Seminars 2021/22</b>	
23 September 2021	Diversifying the Use of Pop Culture in the Classroom: K-Pop Music
13 October 2021	Diversifying Economics Curriculum
27 October 2021	Conversation with star TAs – a view from the trenches
1 December 2021	Are Predicted Grades the Best Way to Identify Potential to Study Economics?
26 January 2022	Diversity in Economics Undergraduates: the admissions and transition support for students
11 March 2022	The Econ Games: An Experiential Learning Authentic Assessment
27 April 2022	Teaching Economics to Non-specialists: opportunities and overcoming challenges

#### *Cryptocurrencies and Distributed ledger technology (DLT) workshop.*

Silvia organised a two-day inter-departmental workshop on 'Cryptocurrencies and Distributed Ledger Technology (DLT)'. The workshop was well attended by a cross section of the UCL community that included undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as staff from non-economics disciplines. Silvia plans to bring the workshop into the next academic year by seeking additional funding via the UCL Social and Historical Sciences Dean's Fund.

<sup>1</sup> CTaLE Survey sent to CTaLE Mailing List subscribers. Question: "We may be able to run this session as a hybrid session, with the in-person session being on the UCL Bloomsbury campus. If we are able to do this, will you prefer to attend in person?". 33 respondents (No:22, Yes:2, Maybe:5)

### *Econ Games*

UCL and CTaLE hosted [The Econ Games 2022](#), an annual competition co-founded by CTaLE Advisory Board Member Dr [Abdullah Al-Bahrani](#) (Northern Kentucky University) and Dr Darshak Patel (University of Kentucky). Taking place online, student teams were challenged to take part in a data analytics exercise to solve real-world problems using a dataset provided by a corporate sponsor ([World Data Lab](#)). Parama was an advisor to the UCL Team who won the overall competition. They were awarded a place on the “[R for Economists](#)” course funded by UCL Social and Historical Sciences Dean’s Fund and [UCL Global Engagement](#).

### *TeachECONference*

CTaLE’s flagship event [TeachECONference](#) completed its third successful year, marking its continued collaboration with the Cornell University.



*New TeachECONference logo.*

In line with 2021, the conference ran over 3 days from 27-29 June 2022 in a free and online format. This year, the conference not only benefited from a new logo (see left) but also a [new promotional video](#) filmed by a specialist production agency, [Econ Films](#).

Student Partners were again integrated into conference organisation; Madigan Ruch was employed as Communications Officer, and Ming Zhao and Maha Khalid were conference facilitators, and contributed post-event blog items on the CTaLE website.

This year’s conference was sponsored by [Ed Discussion](#), [RES](#), and [Stata](#). The call for papers attracted 62 proposals, of which 12 were entered for the live track, and 15 featured as part of the asynchronous track. The conference playlist on the CTaLE YouTube channel has so far received 511 views compared the 2021 playlist which has received 194, suggesting an increased need for CTaLE’s on-demand content.

### *UCL Economics Summer School*

Led by Silvia, on behalf of CTaLE, the UCL Economics Summer School, was delivered in two iterations. The first was credit bearing course attended by fee-paying students at college level. The second was part of the [Year 12 Sutton Trust Summer Schools](#), a residential programme aimed at Widening Participation students. Silvia organised 15 economics sessions includes a diverse range of workshops, group poster presentations, lectures and the UCL Economics Walk (delivered by Ramin).

### *Additional Events*

- Parama ran UCL [Leading Change in Education](#) workshops which offered opportunities to promote CTaLE’s work and success.
- Silvia was awarded a place on the competitive AEA [EDUCATE Workshop](#) which focused on increasing diversity at undergraduate level through course design activities.

## Social Media and Engagement

CTaLE has achieved respectable growth across its social media, in part to its consistency in posting regularly and sharing content from its events, research, and the work of its members. An Instagram channel was also established and will be updated regularly in the new academic year.

Platform	2021	2022
<a href="#">Twitter</a>	695	944
<a href="#">LinkedIn</a>	207	298
<a href="#">YouTube</a>	272	379
WordPress (views)	26.1K	23.4K
CTaLE Mailing List	585	751
<a href="#">Instagram</a>	--	89

*CTaLE Social Media Channels Performance (Data from 31 August 2022)*

## Blogs

Student Partners remain regular contributors to the CTaLE Blog, writing a total of 10 pieces in the 21/22 academic year. The blog provides space for them to share the student perspective on the work of CTaLE's events and demonstrates the significance of staff-student collaboration.

Student Partner Contributions to CTaLE Blog	
Author(s)	Title
Vandita Garg and Baoyang Yu	Review: #EconTEAching Seminar 18: Diversifying Economics Curriculum
Yuqi Jin	Review: #EconTEAching Seminar 19: Conversation with Star Tas
Phin Godfrey	UCL Economics Walk Review
Pavel Sizov	Review: #EconTEAching Seminar 20: Are Predicted Grades the Best Way to Identify Potential to Study Economics?
Shania Hindocha	Review: EconTEAching Seminar – Teaching Economics to Non-specialists: opportunities and overcoming challenges
Oana Gavriloiu	A Student Reflection – Current Issues in Economics Teaching
Suraj Sridhar	TeachECONference2022: Reflections on the Purpose of Economics Education
Maha Khalid	TeachECONference2022 Asynchronous Track 'Lessons from Covid' – A Review
Ming Zhao	A Student's View: 'What are Students Learning?'
Suraj Sridhar and Manasa Sanjay	The Economic Tribune at Explore Econ 2022

## Outreach

CTaLE's commitment to outreach activities included its contribution and set up of mentoring programmes and work with UCL engaged/partner Schools. The Centre has sustained its connection with the UCL Access and Widening Participation Team by contributing to centrally lead initiatives such as masterclasses and summer schools. Working with departments inside and external to UCL

has allowed CTaLE to reach a wider audience and has enabled collaboration with new colleagues who are similarly focused on the extension of and improvement of economics education.

### Widening Participation

Parama and Cloda secured a workshop with [Hampstead School](#) in early December as part of [Community Engaged Learning](#) (CEL) consultancy service, based at UCL. The workshop was delivered by students Harvey Broadhead-Nriapia, Benjamin Hentschel and Shavak Matalia, who also undertook mentoring duties.

Parama and Cloda worked with the UCL Economist Society to establish a student-led mentoring scheme for local schools. This included providing training to students on effective mentoring, including an overview of welfare considerations of both the mentor and mentee.

Ramin delivered a session on the “Economic Story of the World in the Last Four Decades” for the UCL [Access and Widening Participation Masterclass](#) series.

Silvia worked with [Massolit](#), an online educational resource provider, to deliver online lectures. As thanks for her contribution, Silvia received a free Massolit subscription page that can be donated to a School with links to CTaLE.

Silvia also organised and hosted sessions at the UCL Economics Summer School for Year 12 and Year 13 students from Widening Participation backgrounds.

### Discover Economics Workshop

The [Discover Economics](#) campaign was awarded to CTaLE (Cloda and Parama) and LSE for a Widening Participation activity. The “Economics in the Digital Age: A Workshop for Year 10 school students” was held at Imperial College on 15 June 2022. Attended by Schools from across London, the workshop featured a range of interactive talks from academic staff (including CTaLE staff Parama, Cloda and Ramin), Undergraduate Economics students and Economists from organisations such as [Netflix](#), the UK [Department of Education](#), and [Eisler Capital](#) as well as networking lunch and giveaways donated by all Colleges. The event was well attended, with more than 80 participants.

### University Outreach

CTaLE enlisted the services of the [Imperial Consulting Project](#), a postgraduate student volunteer project. As CTaLE is an independently funded, the group were asked to explore different financial models that CTaLE could potentially operate under. The group met weekly with Parama to exchange feedback. In addition, they also explored different logo options for CTaLE (see below).



CTaLE Potential New Logo version 1



CTaLE Potential New Logo version 2

### Awards and Recognition

- Silvia was nominated in the Openness and Inclusion category at the [UCL Education Awards](#).
- Ramin was included in the Roll of Honour at the [Student Choice Awards](#) hosted by the Students' Union UCL.
- CTaLE received an honorary mention in the [European Economic Association's](#) (EEA) Inaugural [Education Awards 2022](#) in a virtual ceremony hosted at the EEA 2022 Annual Congress in Milan.

## Educational Enhancement Activities within our institutions

CTaLE's suite of educational enhancement activities enables the Centre to put into practice its research and firsthand experience of teaching economics. Co-curricular activities such as the Explore Econ student conference and UCL Economics Walk embody CTaLE's approach to greater student participation that empower students to experience career pathways in economics education and teaching from an early stage.

### *UCL Explore Econ*

[Explore Econ](#) showcases the best research amongst UCL Undergraduate Economics Students. Ramin led the Executive Committee that was formed of CTaLE staff, UCL Economics Department Professional Services Staff, Emer Girling, Matthew Berle and Julia Hyom, and Student Partners, Malini Banerjee and Ariana Floropoulou.



*New Explore Econ Logo.*

The conference enables students to be active participants in their educational experience by integrating their input at planning stage and enabling them to present alongside academic staff. This year, students were also invited to be on the executive and scientific committees, furthering increasing their involvement in and ownership of the event.

The Explore Econ conference logo was updated with a refreshed look for the 2022 event (see above). It took place in hybrid

format with student papers, posters, and photos submitted online, and incorporated an online peer voting option which receive 640 votes. The conference ended with a celebratory in-person ceremony that was attended by senior members of the UCL community including the Vice Provost (Education) and the SHS Faculty Interim Dean and more than 60 students. Focus for next year should be on gathering KPIs to monitor student engagement in the event.

### *UCL Economics Walk*

Now a regular (and popular) fixture in the UCL Economics academic calendar, Ramin delivered five UCL Economics Walks during the academic year including a virtual walk with [George Washington](#)

[University](#). To date, the talk has been delivered 18 times to more than 250 attendees and informs Ramin's research into place-based learning.

#### *The Laidlaw Research and Leadership Programme*

CTaLE was awarded funding for two separate projects under the umbrella of the [Laidlaw Research and Leadership Programme](#). The first, '[What works and doesn't work in online economics education?](#)' led by Parama, enlisted a current student to provide research input and project management into the Parama and Abdullah's forthcoming book on online education. The second, led by Ramin, [UCL Economics Walk: Incorporating students' voices](#), invited current students to critique the UCL Economics Walk in order to gain their perspective and identify potential omissions. Both projects helped students to gain an understanding of the demands of an academic research project.

This year also saw the completion of a Laidlaw project awarded in 2021; '[Get to Know Your Professor](#)'. Led by Ramin, this eight-part video series in which current students interview members of the UCL Department of Economics

#### *UCL Journal of Economics*

Parama, Silvia and Ramin were appointed to the board of the new [UCL Journal of Economics](#). The first issue featured the winning papers from the Explore Econ conference, providing a linkage between student and departmental initiatives.

## Priorities for the year ahead

The Centre's immediate priority is to expand its consultancy and financial sponsorship engagements and other high value projects that will keep it running beyond 2024. It seeks to do this by sourcing and establishing relations with organisations interested in economics education and training, in addition to fostering the relationships it has established with its existing clients and sponsors. The Centre remains open to media and brand sponsorships that will help to raise the profile of its work and events.

#### *Advisory*

Following the success of CTaLE's 'Economics for Foreign Policy' training for the FCDO, the Centre is now looking to work with other organisations as well. CTaLE is exploring plans to develop the existing content into a training course for non-economists in sectors such as government, regulators, central banks, investment banking, fintech, risk management and insurance. With an already established reputation for helping professionals understand their work via the lens of economics, CTaLE hopes to secure similar types of contracts with similar high-impact organisations.

#### *Events*

As part of its Events range, CTaLE is committed to running the 4<sup>th</sup> series of EconTEAching Seminars, as well as the 4<sup>th</sup> annual TeachECONference. Tied into this CTaLE will explore the feasibility of holding an online support forum jointly with the RES Education Committee to allow members of its community to ask questions and share best practice in an informal setting.

### *Research*

CTaLE will continue work on its ongoing research projects, and staff are expected to present papers at high profile Economics conferences. Staff will continue to apply for additional funding such as the Dean's Fund to fund research projects.

### *Outreach*

CTaLE's focus for the following year should be on existing outreach activities by working closely with UCL Access and Widening Participation to identify a wider scope of Schools to which it can deliver talks to, as well as building on networks with Schools in its network. The Centre will also approach the Royal Economics Society about getting funding to repeat the successful Discover Economics workshop between CTaLE, LSE and Imperial College Business School.

### *Global Reach*

In response to observations from the Advisory Board, CTaLE plans to expand its geographical reach by promoting their events and resources beyond the UK and North America. It will do this by exploring the impact of quarterly newsletter for its growing mailing list and increasing cross promotion of its key events by working more closely with the institutions of its Advisory Board Members and Associate Members. We will continue to work closely on promotions with the Economics Network, the Royal Economics Society, and the European Economics Association that the Leadership Team are affiliated with.

### *Values*

The upcoming CTaLE Away Day will provide the core team with an opportunity to discuss and define the Centre's vision statement and values. Once defined these will help prompt its existing community of the Centre's purpose as well as potential sponsors.

The team will also investigate establishing clear KPIs to monitor the impact of its activities more consistently.

**Speak to us about CTaLE's work:**

**[ctale.ucl@gmail.com](mailto:ctale.ucl@gmail.com)**