



British-German Alumni: Staying connected in 2020

International relations in a changed world

1730-1900, Tuesday 2 June 2020

In association with the UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office and the British Embassy in Berlin and with support from the Sir Heinz Koeppler Trust and Bridge International Dialogue.

Panellists

Sebastian Wood

British Ambassador to Germany, Berlin

Sir Sebastian Wood, Britain's Ambassador to Germany, took office in September 2015. Before his current posting, he served as British Ambassador to China from 2010 to 2015. Since joining the Foreign Office in 1983, Sebastian has served across the world, including in Bangkok, Hong Kong and Washington.

Julia Gross

Chargé D'affaires, German Embassy, London

Ms Gross took up position as Deputy Head of the German Embassy in London 2018 after four years as Head of Division for Human Resources in Berlin. In addition to her work in the Federal Foreign Office as a staff member of the Division for Human Resources and the Press Department, Ms Gross had several assignments abroad, including in Tirana, New York and Bucharest.

Gisela Stuart

Chair, Wilton Park

Rt Hon Gisela Stuart is Chair of Wilton Park and Non-Executive Board Member for the UK Cabinet Office. Ms Stuart served as the Member of Parliament for Birmingham Edgbaston from 1997 until 2017. Amongst the public positions she holds, she is Director of the Henry Jackson Society, Member of the Global Strategy Forum Advisory Board and on the Board of Birmingham City University.

Discussion questions

The impacts of the global pandemic will be felt across the world and will ultimately require individuals, communities, and governments to act differently. What impact has the global pandemic already had on international relations? What does this mean for bilateral political interactions between the UK and Germany?

Questions to be considered, including during the breakout discussions:

- What will be the state of international relations as we emerge from COVID19?
- What is the future role of rules-based multilateral organisations and how can they work best to alleviate domestic and international impacts of the global pandemic and meet other global challenges of the 21st century?
- How will future US-China relations play out? What does this mean for the UK and Germany?
- Where are the opportunities for Germany and the UK to work together bilaterally, and on the international stage?