

Alumni Roundtable Event

Posted on Friday 21st June 2013

Alumnus, Miguel Castro Coelho hosted a roundtable at the University of Birmingham on Monday 10th June, 2013. Miguel gave current students and a fellow alumnus the opportunity to ask him questions about his time at Birmingham, his career to date as well as his thoughts on economic policies.

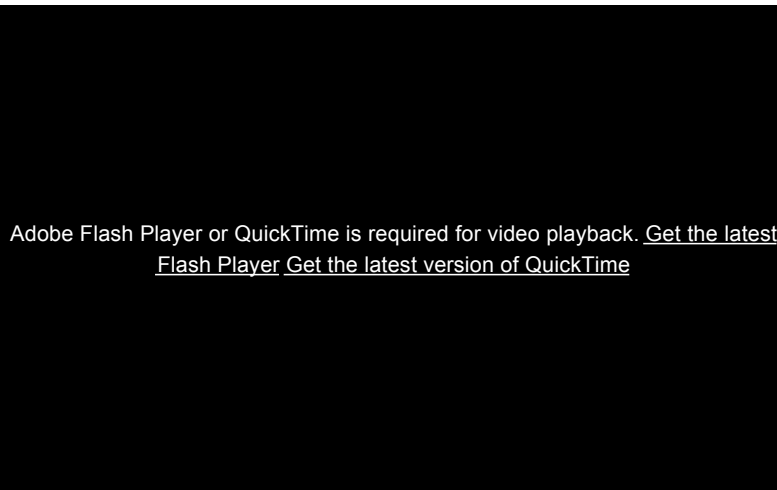


Miguel studied for his MSc in Public Service Management in 2003 at the University and went on to complete his PhD in Public Policy here in 2006. Miguel has had an interesting and successful career since graduating from the University, he is currently a Senior Economist at the Institute for Government and coordinator of the LSE Growth Commission; he leads the institutes work on economic growth in partnership with the London School of Economics.

Miguel has extensive experience of working in and influencing policy-focused environments having held a variety of roles at the heart of government (advisor to HM Treasury, the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit, and 10 Downing Street); in government departments (strategy advisor to the Department for Education); and outside government (Institute for Public Policy Research, advisor to foreign think tanks, and commentator in international media) Miguel's main research interest include the drivers of growth, the economics of education, health and social security; and political economy.

The roundtable saw six students studying both undergraduate and postgraduate courses in International Relations, Finance and Economics attend, as well as a Mathematics and Computer Science alumnus who works within the public sector.

The roundtable was a lively and engaging session with debate on current economic policies and there was enthusiastic discussion from all on various topics such as, innovation in policy in 2013, the impact free schools and academies have had on education in the UK and the benefits of working on policy within government compared to outside of government.



“The event struck a great balance between professional and casual. I wanted to attend this event because I am heading into an internship this summer directly related to where Miguel has worked. I was able to get a good feel of how policy is formulated and implemented and what to expect from the civil service working environment.” **Andrew Isabirye, 3rd year Economics who attended the event.**

“It was really interesting to hear about Miguel's experiences....it also helped me gain a wider perspective of public sector economics.” **Megan Roberts, 4th year Economics with Spanish**

“It has been a genuine pleasure to return to the campus - I keep strong, positive memories of the time I spent there as a student. It's great to see there has been investment in some of the facilities and those changes seems to be going in the right direction. I am thankful for the generosity of the audience who attended my talk and for their engagement.” **Miguel Coelho, Senior Economist at the Institute for Government**

