

Dr Gemma Tetlow, Hon DSc

Friday 18 July 2025

Orator: Dr Arun Advani, Department of Economics

Chancellor

I am delighted to introduce our honorary graduand this afternoon – the Chief Economist at the Institute for Government: GEMMA TETLOW.

It is always a particular pleasure to welcome back one of our own alumni, especially one who has remained so involved with the University. Gemma graduated from Warwick with a BSc in Economics in 2003, followed by an MSc in Economics a year later. She has subsequently pursued a successful career in economics taking on senior roles in thinktanks and media.

Her first role after leaving Warwick was at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the UK's leading economics thinktank, initially working on the economics of pensions and retirement.

Her deeply rigorous work in this area formed the basis for a PhD at University College London, completed alongside her full-time work. She rose through the ranks at the IFS, to become head of pensions and public finance, around the same time I joined the organisation as a new graduate.

After a spell in journalism, as Economics Correspondent for the *Financial Times*, Gemma moved to her current role as Chief Economist at the Institute for Government. Here she leads the Institute's work on public finances and wider economic issues, producing research and analysis that help to make government policy more effective.

Gemma's understanding of the issues and clarity of explanation mean she is always in demand as an expert commentator on economic policy, regularly appearing on radio, on television and in printed media.

She also contributes to improving the UK policy landscape through her work as a Fellow of the Office for National Statistics supporting the UK's national statistics authority to improve its economic statistics—something particularly needed at the moment. And she is a governor of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research, Britain's longest established independent economics research institute.

Gemma is something of a rarity among UK economists – an outstanding female economist in a field that remains male-dominated: only about one third of economics undergraduates are female and women remain under-represented across all sectors of economics, particularly in senior roles. With her impressive career history and her visibility across the media, Gemma provides a much-needed role model for young economists, whether studying for degrees in the discipline or already embarked on their careers.

In this capacity, and as an alumna, Gemma has given up her time to take part in events on campus organised by the Department of Economics to promote a more inclusive environment for women studying economics, and to encourage them to go on to work in jobs in that area.

We are delighted that her connection with us continues in other ways too - as a member of the Advisory Board of the CAGE Research Centre and as Chair of the Advisory Board of the new Centre for the Analysis of Taxation which I direct. Her insights and advice are truly invaluable. It is a great pleasure to welcome Gemma back to Warwick today.

Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, GEMMA TETLOW.