St Peter’s Business Society Speaker Event: Ben Nelson (13/05/2014)

The Business Society was delighted to welcome back alumnus Ben Nelson, a senior economist at the Bank of England, who studied Economics and Management at St. Peter’s.

The presentation, titled “Macroprudential Policy in the UK”, explained how central banking has had to respond to the financial crisis, and how it aims to prevent a recurrence. Ben put forward the case for the new regulation responsibilities of the Bank of England, and students enjoyed engaging with the ideas in a Q&A session at the end. Students were particularly interested to hear Ben’s opinion on the current housing bubble in the UK, and how policy should respond to this.

The event was well received, with almost 50 students in attendance. Some students commented that it was a very rare opportunity to hear how the Bank of England operates and makes its decisions in practice. Others took full advantage of being able to speak to a member of the Bank in person, getting some extra arguments on monetary policy, which will surely come in handy in looming Finals exams.

Ben also spoke about the path he took to reach his current position in the Bank. This gave those interested in pursuing further education or a career in research an insight into the day-to-day work they can expect.

Overall, the event was a success, giving a real insight into how policy making is carried out, and the considerations which the Bank of England takes into account when making its decisions.

Event report written by Edward Lund
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