Central banks and financial supervisors are playing a crucial role in shaping the responses to the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic in both the immediate stabilisation phase and the subsequent recovery phase. Many of the same central banks are also taking action to incorporate climate risks and green finance across their operations. So far, however, there is limited evidence that central banks’ and supervisory authorities’ responses to COVID-19 have actively taken account of climate change or wider sustainability goals. To avoid lock-in to a high-carbon recovery and fulfil their mandates for financial stability, central banks and supervisors need to align their COVID-19 response measures with the Paris Agreement.

Numerous instruments that are already being applied by central banks and financial supervisors in the crisis can be calibrated in ways that account for climate- and other sustainability-related financial risks and/or contribute to the achievement of climate and sustainability goals. Against the background of an INSPIRE Policy Brief produced by the LSE Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment and the SOAS Centre for Sustainable Finance, the panel will discuss options for central banks and financial supervisors to incorporate climate and sustainability factors into COVID-19 crisis response measures.

Schedule [60 minutes in total]

Chair:
- Nick Robins (Professor in Practice for Sustainable Finance, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment)

Presentation of the INSPIRE Briefing Paper “A Toolbox for Sustainable Crisis Response Measures for Central Banks and Supervisors” [10 minutes] by:
- Simon Dikau (Research Officer, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment) & Ulrich Volz (Director of the SOAS Centre for Sustainable Finance at SOAS, University of London)

Discussion with opening statements by each panellist, followed by Q&A [50 minutes]