

■ Tuesday 31 January

President Trump: prospects and problems

Professor Iwan Morgan, University College London

In the week of his inauguration, this lecture looks to the 45th President of the United States. It will offer an early evaluation of how history may judge President Obama's leadership in an age of extreme polarisation, consider the 2016 presidential election in terms of its meaning for Obama's legacy and President Trump's prospects, and assess whether Trump can deal with the challenges of presidential leadership.

■ Thursday 2 February

Jubilee Development Lecture

Ten years after the Stern Review on the economics of climate change: looking back, looking forward

Lord Stern, IG Patel Professor of Economics and Government and Chair of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, London School of Economics and Political Science

Ten years since the launch of the Stern Review, which set out to examine the economic impacts of climate change, its key messages are still highly relevant, indeed even stronger. Global response has been slow but is picking up and agreements made in 2015 and 2016 provide hope for stronger action, which is now ever more pressing. The decisions made in the next two decades on how we build and design infrastructure, cities and technologies will shape the next century and beyond.

■ Wednesday 8 February

Albert Latner Memorial Lecture in Clinical Biochemistry

Give me sunshine

Bill Fraser, Professor of Medicine, University of East Anglia

In Summer 2016, Public Health England advised the government that to protect bone and muscle health, everyone needs vitamin D equivalent to an average daily intake of 10 micrograms. Vitamin D is made in the skin by the action of sunlight and this is the main source of vitamin D for most people. In this lecture, Professor Fraser will discuss the role of this important vitamin in health and disease.

■ Tuesday 14 February

LGBT History Month Lecture

1967 and LGBT liberation

Peter Tatchell, human rights campaigner

It is 50 years since Parliament passed the Sexual Offences Act. That reform only offered a partial, limited decriminalisation of male homosexuality, however: anti-LGBT laws remained on the statute book, convictions rocketed by nearly 400%, and discrimination and violence against LGBT people remained rife – with the full sanction of the law.

■ Tuesday 21 February

Freedom City 2017 Lecture

The courage to listen

Reverend Jeffrey L Brown, Baptist minister and President of RECAP (Rebuilding Every Community Around Peace)

Based on the forthcoming book of the same name, this talk recounts the lessons Reverend Brown learned working with street and drug gangs in the inner city of Boston, and his larger work of bringing together conflicting constituencies in civil society for peace. At a time when division is prominent, Reverend Brown charts a way forward to bring people together.

■ Tuesday 28 February

Lenin on the Train

Professor Catherine Merridale FBA, writer and historian

In April 1917, at the height of the First World War, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin took a train from his place of exile in Zurich. He was the leader of the most intransigent of Marxist factions, the Russian Bolsheviks, and he was heading for the revolutionary Russian capital, Petrograd. As the centenary of this event approaches, this lecture will explore the politics and retrace the route – which includes a cast of plotters, chancers, spies and dreamers – behind the most momentous train journey in history.

■ Thursday 2 March

Vertical: The City From Satellites to Bunkers

Stephen Graham, Professor of Cities and Society, Newcastle University

What does it mean to be above or below in today's rapidly urbanising world? As humans excavate deep into the earth, build ever higher into the skies, and saturate airspaces and inner orbits with all sorts of machines, how might we understand the remarkable verticalities of our world? From satellites to bunkers, this lecture will explore today's geography from a new vertical perspective as a way of gaining fresh insights into how power and inequality work in our world.

■ Tuesday 7 March

Technologies for bee health

Mike Brown, Head of the National Bee Unit, Animal and Plant Health Agency

The Animal and Plant Health Agency's National Bee Unit (NBU) delivers the government's Healthy Bees Plan – a major component of NBU's work is surveillance and control of honey bees' pests and diseases in apiaries across the UK. Mike Brown will discuss the work of the NBU: how it has evolved over the years and how we have harnessed tools such as modern diagnostics and modelling techniques to underpin bee health work and tackle future challenges.

■ Thursday 9 March

Tyneside Geographical Society Lecture

Citizenship and equality

Vera Baird QC, Crime and Police Commissioner for Northumbria and Kaneez Shaid, Chair of Trustees, Citizens UK

This conversation between two prominent figures in community politics will provide insights into community alliances aimed at creating a sense of fairness and a platform for empowering marginalised voices. Vera Baird and Kaneez Shaid will explore identities of citizenship and equality that are forged in the public spaces of civil society – locally, nationally and in a broader ethic of care for human rights.

■ Thursday 16 March

R W Mann Lecture

Race to the top – productivity, investment and industrial strategy in the post-Brexit world

Chi Onwurah, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne Central and Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy, Science and Innovation

Chi Onwurah has previously held the positions of Shadow Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy and Shadow Cabinet Office Minister leading on cyber security, social entrepreneurship, open government and transparency. From 2010–13 Chi was Shadow Minister for Innovation, Science and Digital Infrastructure, working closely with the science and business community, with industry on broadband issues, and on the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Bill.

■ Tuesday 21 March

What is the relationship between genetics and social mobility? Implications for policy and social science

Professor Leon Feinstein, Director of Evidence, Children's Commissioner for England

Findings from genetics studies are transforming the scientific understanding of how biology and social environments interact to determine life outcomes, passed down across generations. At the same time there continues to be interest in using social and economic policy to reduce barriers to social mobility and intergenerational poverty and disadvantage. Professor Feinstein explains why the science of heredity is not in conflict with attempts to address social inequality but rather indicates the remarkable degree to which beliefs and institutions create barriers to equality of opportunity or outcome.

■ Thursday 23 March

Voices and books: a new history of reading

Jennifer Richards, Joseph Cowen Professor of English Literature, Newcastle University

This lecture explores the importance of the physical voice – breath and tone – to reading. It explains how the recovery of the lost reading voices of the past, as well as the art of listening, can help us to re-imagine the books of the future.

INSIGHTS

January – June 2017

Free admission



■ Tuesday 25 April

New voices on social renewal

Three doctoral candidates from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences will talk about their research and how they intend to contribute to a debate about the key societal theme of social renewal.

■ Thursday 27 April

Rethinking public value

Professor Mariana Mazzucato, R M Phillips Chair in the Economics of Innovation, University of Sussex

The talk will highlight the narrow way in which public policy is viewed in economics, and the implications of this for our understanding of value creation. Professor Mazzucato considers the role public policies have had in envisioning change and creating public value that goes beyond the mainstream notion of the public good, the role of policy in market making and shaping and how this can lead to more inclusive growth.

■ Thursday 4 May

Trump in the age of Captain America/ Captain America in the age of Trump

Professor Jason Dittmer, Department of Geography, University College London

This lecture will trace Donald Trump's populism, power, and pugnaciousness in *Captain America*, which proclaims both liberal values and American exceptionalism. As such, it provides resources from which Trump draws, with potential for resistance. Professor Dittmer argues that the fragmentation of the mediascape has manifested as a proliferation of Captain Americas, each articulating a different strand of Americanism. Together, these show Trump to be the apotheosis of long-running processes at the heart of what it means to be an American.

■ Tuesday 9 May Note: 5.30–7.00pm

Debate: Why history?

In the current climate of global political uncertainty, there are serious and hotly contested debates over the role of the arts and humanities in civil society. Has the discipline of history become the handmaiden of contemporary politics? Can history really make a difference to how government policies are made, considering the 'lessons of the past'? Should valuable public resources be going into preserving our heritage in an era of austerity? A distinguished panel will debate these questions.

In collaboration with the British Academy and Newcastle University Institute for Social Renewal theme 'Past in the Present'.

■ Thursday 11 May

Leading the inclusive city: an international analysis

Robin Hambleton, Emeritus Professor of City Leadership, University of the West of England, Bristol

Some commentators take the view that the growth of multinational companies operating on a global basis is now so well developed that cities are best viewed as helpless victims in a global flow of events. Distant, unelected decision-makers now determine city futures, not urban residents. This lecture rejects this view and offers a fresh way of thinking about our urban future. It presents a new conceptual framework for understanding place-based leadership, with examples of inspirational civic leadership drawn from other countries, and how English universities could be the sleeping giants of place-based leadership.

■ Saturday 17 June Note: time to be confirmed

Convocation Lecture

Dr Martin Luther King Jr: his legacy in 2017

Professor Tony Badger, Professor of American History, Northumbria University

A pre-eminent academic and historian of post-World War II American political history and most notably the troubled politics of the South, Professor Badger has published widely on race relations, the depression of the 1930s and the New Deal. He was a prominent member of the History Department at Newcastle University for 20 years before taking up a Visiting Professorship at Tulane University, New Orleans. He then moved to Cambridge University, retiring in 2014, and has recently renewed his links with Newcastle as Professor of American History at Northumbria University.

Newcastle University welcomes you to its Spring 2017 Insights programme. Given by public figures and eminent scholars, the lectures cover a wide range of topics, are free and open to all. All seats are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Unless otherwise stated, lectures begin at 5.30pm, last for an hour plus time for questions, and are held in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

Audio recordings of some lectures are downloadable from our website at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures after the lecture has taken place. Additions or changes to the programme will also be published on our website.

If you wish to confirm dates/speakers, please contact us on **0191 208 6093** or e-mail public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk. To join our mailing list, please complete the online registration form.

The information contained in this card can be provided in alternative formats on request – please contact the Public Lectures office by telephone or e-mail as above.

