

Monday 19 March 07 caféphilosophique

genetic determinism and human freedom

Professor Tom Baldwin (York University): We all know that our genes play an important role in shaping our life. Does it follow that the course of one's life is positively determined by one's genes? – that we have no 'free will', whatever that is?

Monday 16 April 07 caféculturel

free to offend, artistically?

Some faith communities have taken offence at plays like Bezhti and Jerry Springer: the opera, and cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed. Others believe in an absolute freedom of artistic expression. A panel including Professor Chetan Bhatt (Goldsmiths) will debate whether artistic liberty and religious sensibilities can be reconciled.

Monday 7 May 07 cafépolitique

free press: is the media damaging politics?

Cynicism or fair comment? Does the media go too far in building public distrust of politicians causing irreparable damage to British politics? This event, hosted by IPPR North, will feature a leading UK journalist.

Monday 21 May 07 caféscientifique

body parts: free or for sale?

Since slavery was abolished it has been illegal to buy and sell human bodies and body parts. But today scientists, biotech companies and tissue banks profit from human tissue given freely by patients and members of the public. Professor Naomi Pfeffer (London Metropolitan University) asks whether a market in human body parts should be allowed to develop.

Monday 4 June 07 bookgroupsummit

beyond black

Acclaimed author Hilary Mantel will read from and talk about her novel, which explores the life of Alison, a medium imprisoned by her abusive past: please read the book in advance! **Note:** due to high demand and limited space, it is vital to book your place(s) by calling **0191 241 8704** or emailing peals@ncl.ac.uk

Monday 18 June 07 caféscientifique

topic to be confirmed

To be kept informed about this and future Café Culture events, please join our mailing list via peals@ncl.ac.uk or **0191 241 8704**

caféculture

Events organised by PEALS, Culture North East, ippr north and Newcastle Philosophy Society, with sponsorship from Culture North East, Newcastle University and World Headquarters.

Enquiries or mailing list requests to:
peals@ncl.ac.uk

Other café philosophique events can be found at:
www.newcastlephilosophysociety.org.uk/



north
IPPR



café

culture06-07

fortnightly,
first and third
mondays

caféculture: **the freedom programme**

What does freedom mean to you? Having choices? Not having to pay? Having control over your body? Civil liberties? Café Culture offers a themed season of discussions co-organised by Culture North East, IPPR North, Newcastle Philosophy Society and the PEALS Institute. Open to everyone, no prior knowledge needed. No charge, but a collection may be taken.

Events start at 7pm sharp, at:

World Headquarters, Curtis Mayfield House, Carliol Square, Newcastle

(except where specified). Near to Monument Metro, parking nearby, wheelchair access, bar.

Monday 4 September 06 cafépolitique **nanny state or individual freedom?**

Claire Fox (Institute of Ideas) and Prof David Hunter (Durham University and Chair, UK Public Health Forum) debate whether the government has the right to coerce us not to smoke, drink or eat the wrong food. Hosted by IPPR North.

Monday 18 September 06 caféscientifique **freedom to shape the future?**

Do we trust experts to decide about genetics, nanotechnology and biotechnology? Is it realistic for non-specialist citizens to control policy on science and technology? Discussion led by Bano Murtuja and Tom Wakeford from the new "Right 2B heard" network.

Monday 2 October 06 caféphilosophique **Deleuze on freedom**

Jean-Paul Sartre rejected the idea that human beings 'have' a free will, and instead argued that 'consciousness is freedom.' Professor Claire Colebrook (Edinburgh) will introduce the work of Giles Deleuze, who offers a way of combining a notion of consciousness as pure freedom with the recognition that consciousness is embodied.

Monday 16 October 06 caféscientifique **free energy or a nuclear state?**

How should the UK reduce carbon emissions while keeping the lights on? Through renewables, or through another generation of nuclear reactors? The controversy over sustainable energy introduced by Dr Bridget Woodman, energy analyst, Warwick Business School.

Monday 6 November 06 caféculturel **what price art?**

Erica Whyman (CEO Northern Stage) will explain why Northern Stage has taken the bold step of making their second performance space un-ticketed. Mark Scrimshaw (BBC/ex Arts Council) will argue that making galleries and museums free undermines professionalism in visual arts. Hosted by Culture NE.

Note: change of venue: Stage 3, Northern Stage, Haymarket.

Monday 20 November 06 cafépolitique **big brother policing**

Is CCTV cutting crime or curtailing our freedoms? Prof David Markhani Wood, Newcastle University, will debate with Graeme Gerrard, ACPO spokesperson on CCTV and Deputy Chief Constable of Cheshire Constabulary, about whether having the highest level of surveillance in the world gives UK citizens security, or invades our privacy. Hosted by IPPR North.

Monday 4 December 06 caféphilosophique **freedom, choice and happiness**

Economic development has brought with it an enormous increase in personal freedom. But are we any happier? Have we never had it so good, or are things not what they used to be? Newcastle psychologist Dr Daniel Nettle will examine international evidence to find out whether personal freedom and choice create or corrode public happiness.

Monday 15 January 07 caféhistorique **remembering slavery in 2007**

2007 marks the bicentenary of the parliamentary abolition of the British slave trade. Hazel Edwards, Senior Keeper of History at Tyne and Wear Museums, will introduce the hidden history of North East links to the slave trade. Researcher Elizabeth O'Donnell will explore the huge contribution made by Quaker women in the North East to the anti-slavery movement. Hosted by Culture NE.

Monday 5 February 07 cafépolitique **a censored society?**

Shami Chakrabati, Director of Liberty, will argue that 9/11 and the London bombings have legitimised an increase in censorship. Are policies such as ID cards, terror laws, incitement to religious hatred and ASBOs, an attack on our civil liberties or just commonsense measures to protect individual freedoms? Hosted by IPPR North and Culture NE.

Monday 19 February 07 caféphilosophique **freedom: positive or negative?**

Freedom is curious: we want more of it, but we often disagree about what it is. Is freedom the ability to do what you want or simply the absence of restraint? Dr Thom Brooks and Professor Peter Jones (both Newcastle University) will debate the meaning of freedom today, using case studies from current affairs.

Monday 5 March 07 caféscientifique **patient choice or patient responsibility?**

Current UK health policy makes the patient central to choosing where and how to be treated. But this implies freedom without responsibility. Is there now a dangerous imbalance between doctor and patient?

Speaker to be confirmed.