Dr Emma Parker, University of Leicester
www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures
will draw upon recent research about Islamophobia to explore targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness’. In providing a working definition of Islamophobia. The report notes Westminster published its report following a consultation into Professor Peter Hopkins, Newcastle University
Understanding Islamophobia
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and a Trustee of the National Youth Theatre.
Action Aid, President of the British and Foreign School Society. He is also an Ambassador for Education Minister. He was appointed to the Privy Council 2008 and remains one of Parliament’s most prominent campaigners for social justice. He is also an Ambassador for Action Aid, President of the British and Foreign School Society and a Trustee of the National Youth Theatre.

Tuesday 12 February
Understanding Islamophobia
Professor Peter Hopkins, Newcastle University
In November 2018, the All Party Parliamentary Group in Westminster published its report following a consultation into providing a working definition of Islamophobia. The report notes that ‘Islamophobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism that targets expressions of Muslimness or perceived Muslimness’. In this lecture, Newcastle University’s new Dean of Social Justice will draw upon recent research about Islamophobia to explore what enables it and how it operates, what its impacts are and who is affected by it, and how to challenge and report it.

Tuesday 26 February
Uranium, the Bogeyman of the periodic table: a case of Dr Jekyll or Mr Hyde?
Professor Steve Liddle, Manchester University
Nuclear: an emotive word. For or against, we already have legacy issues from nuclear power and weapons and there’ll be more in the future. Most nuclear applications use uranium. Professor Liddle will attempt to unpick this complex area and present some facts about uranium and the science that is done with it.

Thursday 28 February
Kurt Schwitters’ Merz Barn – from there to here
Fred Brookes, Merz Barn Historian
When Schwitters’ work was given to Newcastle University, Fred Brookes, a fine art student, was part of the team that surveyed it, supervised its removal, carried out restoration and conservation after it was installed, and has maintained a relationship with it. This lecture will tell the story of how the work came about, what happened to it and why, and what makes it like it is.

Thursday 7 February
Martin Luther King Memorial Lecture
 Rt Hon David Lammy MP, Member of Parliament for Tottenham
Since being elected as Member of Parliament for his home constituency of Tottenham in 2000, the Rt Hon David Lammy MP has held prominent positions as Culture Minister and Higher Education Minister. He was appointed to the Privy Council in 2008 and remains one of Parliament’s most prominent campaigners for social justice. He is also an Ambassador for Action Aid, President of the British and Foreign School Society and a Trustee of the National Youth Theatre.

Tuesday 12 March
Albert Latner Memorial Lecture in Clinical Biochemistry
Fish oils and brain health: what dose does what in whom?
Professor Anne-Marie Minihan, University of East Anglia
Cognitive function declines naturally with age, with accelerated decline leading to dementia in some. Brain tissue has high levels of the omega-3 fatty acid, DHA. This lecture will consider the importance of adequate DHA status in neurocognitive function. Professor Minihan will discuss whether increased DHA status represents a tractable means of supporting healthy brain ageing.

Sunday 17 March 4.00pm in King’s Hall, Armstrong Building
Henry Miller Memorial Concert
Sarah Beth Briggs (piano)
Concert pianist Sarah Beth Briggs celebrates the centenary of the birth of the great scholar pianist, Denis Matthews. Denis was appointed by Henry Miller as Newcastle University’s first Professor of Music in 1971 and Sarah began her studies with him while he was based in Newcastle. She celebrates his life with repertoire central to his greatest musical passions including works by Mozart, Beethoven and Brahms, also including his own Rhapsody, written when he was 16.
Please note this event is free but pre-booking is required.
To reserve a place please visit: http://bit.ly/1fM2019 or telephone 0191 208 6093 from 10am on Monday 18 February.

Thursday 7 March
Childhood obesity; they should do something about that
Professor Ashley Adamson, Newcastle University
The prevalence of overweight and obesity in the UK is high, yet often we fail to recognise unhealthy weight in children. By the time we reach adulthood, three in every five of us are at least overweight. Behind these figures are the health and social costs of an unhealthy body weight. So whose problem is it, and what can we all do to reverse the tide?

Thursday 19 March
Plant diversity is under threat; why should we care and what can we do?
Professor William Wilts, Newcastle University
Plant diversity is under unprecedented pressure: many species are under threat of extinction and this has serious and far-reaching environmental implications. Loss of diversity also diminishes the repertoire of vital and sustainable products provided by the plant kingdom, including foods, medicines, materials and fuel. This lecture will explore how science and technology can contribute to stemming plant diversity loss.

Thursday 26 March
Between the living and the dead: what are the limits of remembering through oral histories?
Professor Paula Hamilton, University of Technology Sydney
Much of the discussion about oral history as a practice has been about its potential for liberation and social change – but what are the limits? How do we ensure that oral history narratives are multi-vocal and not just one story? Professor Hamilton will draw on her research about women working in the 20th century home as domestic servants, focusing in particular on the experience of intimate relations with men, drawing a connecting line through what is now called harassment to illegitimate births and infanticide, to highlight how shame shapes the historical record.
Newcastle University welcomes you to its Spring 2019 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 about 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.

You can also follow us on Twitter: @insightsncl

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.

Thursday 28 March
Tyneside Geographical Society Lecture
The Making of the British Landscape
Nicholas Crane, geographer, explorer and writer

How much do we know about the place we call ‘home’? The British landscape has been continuously occupied by humans for 12,000 years, from the end of the Ice Age till the twenty-first century. In this geographical journey through time, we discover the ancient relationship between people and place and the deep-rooted tensions between town and countryside. As Britain lurches from an exploitative past towards a more sustainable future, this is the story of our age.

Thursday 9 May
Our lives with algorithms
Professor Louise Amoore, Durham University

From detecting anomalies in the landscapes of medical images or drone footage, to the influencing of elections and the automation of decisions, machine learning algorithms are increasingly shaping our world. In order to learn, however, today’s algorithms require interactions and collaborations with us and with our data. It is not strictly the case that machines are displacing humans, but more precisely that what it means to be human is changing significantly through our relations with algorithms. This lecture examines the ethical and political consequences of our lives with algorithms.

Tuesday 2 May
New voices on science, agriculture and engineering

Three early-career researchers from the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering at Newcastle University explore new ideas through their research.

Thursday 14 May
The Blair Government Reconsidered
Dr Jon Davis, King’s College London

The Labour governments under Tony Blair were routinely criticised for their lack of collective Cabinet government, an over-reliance on unelected special advisers and the use of the ‘dark arts’ of presentational ‘spin’. Based upon the book of the same name, this talk will counter these criticisms and provide a more accurate picture of Blair’s New Labour decade.

Tuesday 30 April
Fickling Lecture on Developments in Children’s Literature
Brain surgery and other stories
Henry Marsh, neurosurgeon and author

Doctors are both witnesses and participants in the stories of the lives of their patients. In recent years there has been an explosion in books written by doctors for the general public, and it is all about story-telling. The prominent neurosurgeon will explain what makes for a good medical story when it is addressed to younger readers.

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