**Tuesday 8 October**
**The History of Dirt in West Africa**
Professor Steph Newell, Yale University and Leverhulme Visiting Professor, Newcastle University

Does dirt have a history that can be researched in understanding urban environments? Using interviews with contemporary residents of Lagos, Nigeria, as well as films, music and documents from British colonial archives, Professor Newell will analyse the causes and consequences of seeing global cities through the lenses of dirt. She will ask how certain people, places and objects came to be labelled using categories related to dirt, and the consequences of this at critical moments in the 20th Century.

**Wednesday 23 October**
**Merey and truth are met together**
One of the key assertions of Christian orthodoxy is that God is merciful. And that God’s mercy is most needed when truth is revealed. Iris Murdoch, whose centenary is celebrated this year, commented in 1970 that ‘Christianity is not so much abandoned as unknown’. Lucy Winkett will argue that this is evident most acutely in the absence of mercy as a public value or societal norm.

**Tuesday 15 October**
**Black History Month Lecture**
**British Women in the Liberation of Frederick Douglass**
Professor Leigh Fought, Le Moyne College, New York

Frederick Douglass’s slave master was demanding his return to bondage when the African-American abolitionist arrived in Newcastle in 1846. Eight months later, Douglass returned to the United States with the master paid off and funds to begin his own anti-slavery newspaper in his pocket. In this lecture the author of Women in the World of Frederick Douglass will describe the efforts of the women Douglass met in Newcastle and elsewhere to bring about this reversal in fortunes, liberating him from claims upon his person, his labour, and his ideas.

This lecture is presented in association with BrANCH, the Association of British American Nineteenth Century Historians.

**Thursday 24 October**
**The quality of mercy is strained**
Although Shakespeare’s Portia was speaking about the constraint rather than the dilution of mercy in her speech to Shylock, in her second lecture Lucy Winkett will explore what she will characterise as the mercilessness of contemporary public discourse, in contrast to the Scriptural characterisation of mercy, to be exercised with what might be called decisive patience and revolutionary forgiveness. Could the quality of mercy transform contemporary public debate? And if so, how?

**Tuesday 29 October**
**Philosophical Society Lecture**
**What do you see? Frames of perception, Claudia Rankine and Serena Williams**
Dr Tina Chanter, Newcastle University

What do we see, hear, perceive, know? What habitual assumptions inform how we interpret the world? Dr Chanter discusses Rankine’s interrogation of racial micro-aggressions in the context of controversial line calls in tennis matches. The talk will draw on the work of Jacques Rancière, who is interested in how politics and art can shake up what we think and what we know about the world.

**Wednesday 6 November**
**Charlton Memorial Lecture**
Dr Maria Balshaw, Director of Tate

This year’s Charlton Memorial Lecture marks the centenary of its establishment. The lecture was set up to commemorate William Henry Charlton, who studied in the Fine Art Department at Armstrong College. Maria Balshaw was appointed Director of Tate in June 2017 and has overall responsibility for Tate’s strategic direction and day-to-day operations. As Director, Maria is also the Accounting Officer appointed by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

For more information visit www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures
This lecture is about exploring and writing Ralph Tailor’s Sumner, a ‘microhistory’ of Newcastle upon Tyne during the devastating plague of 1636, and of the role in that calamity of the scrivener Ralph Tailor, who did much to record it. The talk will focus on the origins of the project, its development through the exploration and analysis of the surviving records, and the problems of how best to write histories of this kind.

**JOHN H HOLMES MEMORIAL LECTURES FOR 10- TO 14-YEAR-OLDS**

*The inside story of our body and mind*

The 2020 Holmes Lectures will be given by researchers from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and will take place in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

**Wednesday 16 January 2020, 5.00-6.00pm**

*Looking at the brain in pain*

**Wednesday 22 January 2020, 5.00-6.00pm**

*Seeing inside the body with radioactivity*

To register for free places, please email the Public Lectures office: public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk or telephone 0191 208 6093.

Newcastle University welcomes you to its Autumn 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 available on 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 email 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 email as above.

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**Wednesday 27 November**

Note: 6.00pm start

Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Lecture

*Finding Ralph Tailor*

Professor Keith Wrightson, Yale University

This lecture is about researching and writing Ralph Tailor’s Sumner, a ‘microhistory’ of Newcastle upon Tyne during the devastating plague of 1636, and of the role in that calamity of the scrivener Ralph Tailor, who did much to record it. The talk will focus on the origins of the project, its development through the exploration and analysis of the surviving records, and the problems of how best to write histories of this kind.

**Thursday 28 November**

*Understanding stem cells*

Jacobson Lecture

Professor Fiona Watt, King’s College London

In this lecture we will hear from internationally renowned scientist Professor Fiona Watt describe the different types of stem cells in the body and why they are important – both for normal tissue function and as a contributor to disease. Fiona Watt is Director of the Centre for Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine at King’s College London, and became the Executive Chair of the Medical Research Council in 2018.

**Wednesday 4 December**

Note: 5.30-7:00pm

Celebrating Student Research Scholarships and Expeditions 2019

Presentations by students showcasing the achievements of their diverse summer research scholarships and expeditions. These challenging projects reflect the broad range of academic interests across all three of the University’s Faculties. Accompanying posters will be on display in the Special Exhibition Space, Great North Museum, from 4.30pm.

**Thursday 5 December**

Is fixing infrastructure in the London global city-region undermining the rest of the UK?

Professor Andy Pike, Newcastle University

Infrastructure provides services we all rely upon for our day-to-day lives. This lecture explains why the geography of infrastructure investment in the UK is spatially skewed towards its capital city-region. It reveals that infrastructure fixes for London risk undermining national ‘rebalancing’, leaving places in the rest of the UK struggling to invest for their future prosperity.

**Thursday 25 November**

Note: 6.00pm start

Lecture for 10- to 14-year-olds

The 2020 Holmes Lectures will be given by researchers from the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and will take place in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

**Wednesday 5 December**

5.30-7.00pm

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Professor Keith Wrightson, Yale University

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