**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 with contemporary residents of Lagos, Nigeria, as well as labelling, but it will explore what dirt 

**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.

**Wednesday 23 October**

**Mercy 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.

**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.

**Thursday 31 October**

**Jack Jeffery Lecture on Environment and Sustainability**

Cátia de Albuquerque, CEO, Sanitation and Water for All

Before being appointed as Chief Executive of Sanitation and Water for All in 2018, Cátia was the World’s Water Special Rapporteur on the human right to drinking water and sanitation. She was awarded the Human Rights Golden Medal by the Portuguese Parliament in 2009 for outstanding work in the area of human rights. Also in 2009, her work was honoured by the Portuguese President of the Republic with the Order of Merit, which is a recognition of an individual’s personal bravery, achievement, or service.

**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.

**Thursday 7 November**

**The Crisis of the Meritocracy: how popular demand (not politicians) made Britain into a mass education society**

Professor Peter Mandler, University of Cambridge

Before the Second World War, only about 20% of the population attended secondary school and only about 2% went on to higher education. Today everyone goes to secondary school - to 16 and mostly to 18 years of age - and half the population progress to higher education. How and why did this happen and with what effects?

**Thursday 14 November**

**Can meaningful hope spring from revealing the depth of our climate failure?**

Professor Kevin Anderson, University of Manchester

Peel away the layers of dangerously naive hope and unfounded optimism, and the mitigation challenge posed by the Paris Agreement now demands the rapid and profound re-shaping of contemporary society. While the models dominating the mitigation agenda employ speculative technologies, the arithmetic of emissions increasingly embeds equity at the heart of any mathematically cogent strategy. Against such a depressing backdrop, does the rapid emergence of new and vociferous constituencies and the heightened profile of climate change suggest early cracks and the prospect of new light?

**Tuesday 19 November**

**Smart Cities: fact or fiction?**

Philip James, Newcastle University

Newcastle has recently been voted Smart City of the Year but what makes a city smart? How do we embrace the data revolution to make better decisions, put citizens at the heart of the process and demonstrate the value of data to ensure the economic sustainability of people and places? This lecture explores the potential of data and the challenges and risks that cities such as Newcastle face as we explore more data-centric decision-making.

**Thursday 21 November**

**Three tales from the biomedical frontier**

Winners of the Faculty of Medical Sciences’ postgraduate public speaking prize describe their quests at the cutting edge of science and how their findings may underpin the medical treatments of tomorrow.
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: @nclInsights.

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.

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 15 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.