Tuesday 11 February
Darwin Day Lecture with the North East Humanists
Social evolution in Darwin’s world
Professor Robin Dunbar, University of Oxford
Though Darwin was much interested in social behaviour and psychology, he lived in a time when little was known about animal societies. We have since come to appreciate how complex some mammal societies can be. In this lecture Professor Dunbar will present some novel ideas on how mammal, primate and especially human societies have evolved.

Thursday 13 February
Britain’s past, present and future
William Keegan, Senior Economics Correspondent, The Observer
A financial journalist for over fifty years, William Keegan has witnessed a collapsing pound, spiraling oil prices and near-ratios of electricity as Britain’s economy has lurched from one crisis to another. With anecdotes and memories from his career, this lecture will offer a fresh insight into Britain’s past, present and future.

Tuesday 18 February
People like us: What it takes to make it in modern Britain
Hashi Mohamed, Barrister and Broadcaster
Hashi Mohamed arrived in Britain as a child refugee, and is now a Barrister at No5 Chambers in London. He is also a broadcaster, regularly appearing on BBC Radio 4, and writing for publications like The Guardian. The Times and Prospect.
This lecture will focus on what social mobility means in modern day Britain, and how much difference education actually makes.

Thursday 27 February
A global history of sexual violence
Professor Joanna Bourke, Birkbeck College, University of London
Sexually-violent practices and ideologies have varied dramatically over time and geographical region. There have also been important shifts in the weighting given to its two components: ‘sexual’ and ‘violence’. Sexual violence is deeply rooted in specific political, economic, social, and cultural contexts. In this lecture, Professor Bourke explores some of the ways sexual violence has been understood, from the nineteenth-century to the present day, paying particular attention to local, regional, and global differences.

Thursday 3 March
Bagpuss: ‘The cat that got the cream of British Music’
Sandra Kerr, Newcastle University
Sandra Kerr was co-writer, with John Faulkner, of the music and songs for Bagpuss, the award-winning children’s television series, created by Oliver Postgate and Peter Firmin for the BBC in 1974. In this lecture, she will explore the influences the composers drew upon, examine the roots of the material they created and demonstrate the various methods through which they developed the repertoire and the distinctive sound which is widely regarded as a core feature of the films.

Thursday 5 March
This lecture will focus on what social mobility means in modern day Britain, and how much difference education actually makes.

Thursday 10 March
From test tube to clinic – the story of mitochondrial donation and other tales
Professor Sir Doug Turnbull, Newcastle University
Mitochondria are the powerhouses of human cells and essential to human life. In this lecture, Professor Sir Doug Turnbull will explain the importance of mitochondria for human health and how mitochondria go wrong in disease and ageing. He will also highlight the remarkable story of mitochondrial donation, a way of preventing the transmission of mitochondrial abnormalities from mother to child.

Thursday 12 March
Britain and Europe: Historical perspectives beyond Brexit
Professor Brendan Simms, University of Cambridge
The key question today is whether the United Kingdom will order its own space or become a space ordered by the European Union. Taking a long-term view, Professor Simms will show how Europe, rather than the Empire, was generally the primary frame of reference in English and then British history. Over hundreds of years, the UK acted as an ordering power on the continent. Its constitutional development was shaped by Europe, and yet in important respects unique.

Thursday 17 March
Why geographers should join the rebellion
Zion Light, Co-founder for Extinction Rebellion UK
The global landscape of planet Earth is changing. Chronic deforestation, rising sea levels, and mass extinction with one in seven species on the hit list are just some of those changes. Geographers have been studying climate change for decades but now is the most momentous time to become actively engaged with what the future will look like. This planet needs you to rebel.

Tuesday 24 March
Oral History Lecture
After displacement: Journeys of the mind and memory communities
Dr Indira Chowdhury, Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore
The Partition of India in 1947 caused displacement for millions of people, accompanied by the disintegration of families, communities and their sense of place. Oral history enables us to examine how a remembered past confronts the glorified stories of nation-building, and how a remembered past confronts the glorified stories of nation-building.

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**Thursday 26 March**
Who runs your University?
Dr John Hogan, Newcastle University
Most universities have become huge organisations teaching tens of thousands of students, employing thousands of staff and with financial turnovers in the hundreds of millions. In this lecture Dr John Hogan, Registrar of Newcastle University, will explore the contested issues in university governance, including the role of government, students as funders, the community of scholars and the role of the governing body.

**Tuesday 12 May**
101st Charlton Memorial Lecture
Print Incites
Professor Steph Newell, Professor Richard Clay and Dr Gillian Join, Newcastle University
Featuring three experts on print and political activism, this lecture considers global examples of print and how it was and is used for political resistance. Approaching print from the critical junction where aesthetics meets politics and – in a radically transnational way – prompts questions around the nature, function, ethics and multiplicities of print cultures. Why is print such a compelling anti-/political tool, and is print always an inherently democratising force?

**Thursday 28 April**
Rewinding the Welfare State: a social history of the North East on film
Dr Ben Lamb, Teesside University
Based on his Heritage Lottery Funded project, and in collaboration with North East on Film, Dr Lamb will curate clips and invite the audience to consider the journey 'from cradle to grave' in the region over the last hundred years.

**Thursday 30 April**
In conversation with Michael Billington – Britain’s leading theatre critic
Rebribing after fifty years as theatre critic of The Guardian and, in his own words, ‘eight thousand nights sitting in theatres’, Michael Billington will discuss British theatre since the Second World War, its controversies and challenges, and its place in society.

**Tuesday 5 May**
New voices on arts, humanities and social sciences
Three early-career researchers from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Newcastle University explore new ideas through their research.

**Thursday 14 May**
Jacobson Lecture
Understanding stem cells
Professor Fiona Watt, King’s College London
In this lecture, internationally renowned scientist Professor Fiona Watt will 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. Professor 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.

**Thursday 21 May**
Whatever happened to our borderless world?
Dr Nick Megoran, Newcastle University
The fall of the Berlin Wall was heralded as the dawn of a new ‘borderless world’. Yet three decades on, from Brexit to Trump, this sounds like a hollow dream as the world has seen a proliferation of border fences and walls unmatched in human history. The geographical reality is more complex, with the world becoming more bordered for some people and less bordered for others. This lecture will examine the changing role of borders and walls over time, and asks whether it is still reasonable to hope for a borderless world.

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Newcastle University welcomes you to its Spring 2020 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: @sightsncl.

If you wish to confirm dates/speakers, please contact us on 0191 208 6059 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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