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.

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 returned to the United States with the master paid off and arrived in Newcastle in 1846. Eight months later, Douglass

Tuesday 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?

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
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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?
**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 Summer, 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**
Jacobson Lecture
Understanding stem cells
Professor Fiona Watt, King’s College London
In this lecture we will hear from one of the world’s foremost scientists. Professor Fiona Watt is the Director of the Centre for Stem Cell Biology at King’s College London and will be speaking about the different types of stem cells in the body, why they are important – both for normal development and as a contributor to disease. Professor Watt is a member of the Rare Disease Research Board and became the first 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.

**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.

**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.