

INSIGHTS Public Lectures will continue to run virtually until further notice.

We hope we can return to delivering events in the Curtis Auditorium as soon as possible.

You can find the most up-to-date information about INSIGHTS events on our website and on Twitter.

Stay connected

Website: www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures

Twitter: [@insightsNCL](https://twitter.com/insightsNCL)

Thursday 10 February

Darwin Day Lecture with the North East Humanists
The handshake: a gripping history... and a biological one

Ella Al-Shamahi, palaeoanthropologist, evolutionary biologist and stand-up comic

Many declared that Covid had killed the handshake. But the handshake is not just cultural, it's biological, probably embedded in our DNA and at least seven million years old. This is a paradigm shift from the oft-repeated 'origin' of the handshake as being a way of showing that you are unarmed. This lecture argues that the handshake has an actual biological purpose and considers what other pandemics through history tell us about its 'demise'.

Friday 18 February

LGBT+ History Month Lecture

E-J Scott, Curator and Founder of The Museum of Transology

E-J Scott is a curator, cultural producer and academic and winner of the UK's Activist Museum Award 2020/21. Their interventive curatorial methodologies include arts participation as hyper-localised occupation, community-led collecting as direct museological action and the queering of digital borders. He is the founder of the British Digital Art Network, the UK's first national curatorial, academic and artist network to collectively interrogate the impact of the field on the UK art world.

Tuesday 22 February

Neuroblastoma: A master of disguise and a challenge to cure

Professor Deborah Tweddle, Newcastle University

Neuroblastoma is a cancer of the sympathetic nervous system. It is the commonest childhood cancer after brain tumours and one of the most difficult to cure. This lecture will discuss how neuroblastoma presents, and how advances in understanding genetics of this enigmatic cancer over the last 20 years have led to improvements in treatment and cure rates. It will also examine some remaining hurdles and how these might be overcome in the future.



Tuesday 1 March

British Academy Lecture
For a reparatory social science

Professor Gurminder K Bhambra, University of Sussex

The social sciences are implicated in the reproduction of the very structures of inequality that are, ostensibly, their objects of concern. This is, in part, a consequence of their failure to acknowledge the 'connected histories' from which they abstract one of their primary units of analysis: the modern nation-state. There is a need to account for colonial histories and to devise a framework for a reparatory social science – one that is oriented to global justice as a reconstructive project of the present.



Tuesday 8 March

Sophia Lecture
The role of place in recovering from the crisis: what have universities got to do it with it?
Dame Julia Unwin, Chair of the Independent Inquiry on the Future of Civil Society

The second decade of the century is proving to be a disruptive and confusing one. What is the role of place in shaping our new future, contributing to a sustainable recovery, building confidence and healing across the divides? Civil society – including universities – has a vital role in enabling a positive, just and resilient future. Community leadership, networks and movements, along with long established institutions, are central to planning our future.



Thursday 10 March

Shakespeare as a sound artist

Bruce R Smith, Leverhulme Visiting Professor, Newcastle University

Famous for his words, Shakespeare is also a master creator of soundscapes. Anticipating the sound artists of today, Shakespeare turned the Globe and the Blackfriars theatres in London into acoustic environments full of music, the noises of fireworks, gunshots, and thunder – not to mention the applause, laughter, and shouts of his audiences. This lecture will position speech within this panoply of sounds.



Thursday 17 March

Tyneside Geographical Society Lecture
Pocketbooks, cairns and carrier pigeons: polar postal systems
Nancy Campbell, writer

How has the environment influenced communication across the circumpolar north? From the correspondence of nineteenth-century explorers to indigenous narratives and memorials, the circulation of personal histories is interwoven with topography. This lecture explores textual practice in the north and considers how contemporary readers salvage and interpret these documents.

Thursday 24 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 valedictory lecture, the Registrar of Newcastle University will explore the question of who is in charge and the key changes over time, as well as some of 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 26 April

Lecture to mark 150 years of Science, Agriculture and Engineering at Newcastle University
The state of our Universe

Professor Edmund Copeland, University of Nottingham

What does your observable universe look like? How large is it, how old, what does it contain, how is it evolving, and how significant are we in it? This lecture will try and answer some of these questions and in doing so the speaker will reflect on the impact the best city in the world has had on his life and career – from doing the Great North Run to meeting Stephen Hawking!

Wednesday 4 May

Edward Heath Lecture
Britain and China, 1972-2022: Fifty years of handling Asia's new superpower
Lord Patten of Barnes

Chris Patten was Chairman of the Conservative Party 1990-92, Secretary of State for the Environment 1989-89, and a Minister of State in several departments during the 1980s. A former Chancellor of Newcastle University, he was also the last Governor of Hong Kong from 1992 to 1997 when sovereignty was transferred to China, the experience of which led to his book *East and West*. He reflects on what the government described this year as a 'systemic competitor' of 'increasing power and assertiveness' which is 'the biggest state-based threat to the UK's economic security'.

INSIGHTS

VIRTUAL LECTURES

February – May 2022

Free online lectures

Tuesday 10 May

Jack Jeffery Lecture

People powered: what if people, not technology, are the answer to the climate crisis?

Dr Katy Roelich, University of Leeds

Solutions to the climate crisis are often discussed in terms of gigawatts of renewable energy or numbers of electric vehicles needed to decarbonise. But these technologies have profound impacts on the daily lives of people and in turn are shaped by the decisions and activities of people. This lecture will argue that putting people at the heart of decisions about the climate crisis will accelerate change and lead to better outcomes for all.

OP

Thursday 12 May

New voices on science, agriculture and engineering

Newcastle University is celebrating 150 years of Science, Agriculture and Engineering that have made the institution what it is today. As part of the celebration, three early-career researchers explore new ideas through their research in these disciplines.

OP

Tuesday 17 May

Levelling up – national mission and global challenge

The Rt Hon Justine Greening, former Minister for Women and Equalities

Levelling up was a longstanding challenge for Britain before Covid-19, but the pandemic has now made it both more acute and urgent to address. Yet achieving equality of opportunity is more than simply a social imperative. This lecture will set out how levelling up is also an economic and political necessity and how this presents a chance to fundamentally redefine the UK, not only to ourselves, but also to a wider world.

CP

Thursday 19 May

The Monarchy and the UK's evolving constitution

Dr Catherine Haddon, Institute for Government

The exercise of Monarch's reserve powers has generally occurred with little controversy. But recent events have reminded us of the constitutional risks if the Monarchy is drawn inadvertently into politics. To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, this lecture will examine the evolution of this delicate balancing act.

KEY: The INSIGHTS programme is designed around the University's world-leading research and the five key areas of strength identified by our Vision and Strategy. To find out more please visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/who-we-are/strengths

D For Data **OP** For One Planet **CP** For Cities and Place
AH For Ageing and Health **CCA** For Culture and Creative Arts

From Newcastle. For the world.

STAY CONNECTED:

Website: www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lecturesEmail: public.lectures@ncl.ac.ukTwitter: [@InsightsNCL](https://twitter.com/InsightsNCL)

The University will make all reasonable efforts to deliver INSIGHTS events. However, it may be necessary to make changes in response to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19. Given the changing nature of the Covid-19 pandemic, events are subject to guidelines that may be in place from time to time.

Newcastle University is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our students, colleagues and supporters. Due to ongoing uncertainty around Covid-19, INSIGHTS Public Lectures will continue to run virtually until further notice.

INSIGHTS Virtual Lectures cover a wide range of topics delivered by leading public figures and eminent scholars and are available to watch on our YouTube Channel. Unless otherwise stated, lectures will begin at 5.30pm and last for approximately one hour, including time for questions. See the panel below for information about how to access virtual lectures.

Information and links to upcoming events can be found at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures. Additions or changes to the programme will also be published on our website.

How to watch an INSIGHTS Virtual Lecture

You can watch a virtual lecture using a computer, tablet or smart phone.

STEP 1
Open a web browser (eg Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Firefox) and type the following into the address bar:
www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures

STEP 2
Click on 'Upcoming Virtual Lectures' and choose the lecture you want to watch

STEP 3
Click on the red 'watch' button

Lectures will be available to watch from the time and date shown in this programme card.

If you experience any problems, please contact the Public Lectures Office for assistance.

The information contained in this leaflet can be provided in alternative formats on request – please contact the Public Lectures Office. Information included is correct at the time of going to print (January 2022).

© Newcastle University. The University of Newcastle upon Tyne trading as Newcastle University. Designed by GDA, Northumberland. Printed by Staxex Colour Print, Newcastle upon Tyne, on 100% recycled paper.