NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY LECTURES FOR ALL

IN SIGHTS

VIRTUAL LECTURES

October 2020 – January 2021
Free online lectures

Newcastle University
Tuesday 6 October
Dressed: how to think about clothes
Professor Shahidha Bari, London College of Fashion

The American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson once joked ‘there is one other reason for dressing well, namely that dogs respect it and will not attack you in good clothes.’ However you feel about clothes, is it time to take them seriously? In this lecture, Professor Bari explains how philosophers have thought about clothes and why in an age of ecological and existential crisis, we might gain something from thinking about how and why we dress.

Thursday 8 October
Slowdown: the end of the great acceleration – and why it’s good for the planet, the economy, and our lives
Professor Danny Dorling, University of Oxford

Danny Dorling uses global data to reveal that human progress is slowing down. Not only has the rise per person in fertility and productivity fallen over the last few generations, but so has the rate of production and – almost certainly – innovation. Fortunately, this slowdown is good for our civilization. Professor Dorling graduated from Newcastle University in 1989 with a degree in Geography and Mathematics – and he has been using both subjects ever since…

Tuesday 13 October
World Mental Health Day Lecture
There and back again – a journey through mental illness
Adam Gridley, Expert by Experience

Mental illness can affect people of any gender, age, or background. In this talk, Adam describes his lived experience of using cannabis during a gap year as a gateway to popularity and hyper-vigilance. On returning to study psychology, that use escalated, resulting in multiple stays in hospital, self-harm, and suicide attempts. From the other side of this journey, he reflects on his experiences in an effort to promote greater understanding of drug use and mental health.
Thursday 15 October
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 19th Century to the present day, paying particular attention to local, regional, and global differences.

Tuesday 20 October
Black History Month Lecture
A Bitter Sweet Journey: from slavery to freedom and beyond the colour line
Dr Keith Magee, Director of the Social Justice Institute, Boston
The Atlantic slave trade transported Black human bodies to the British colonies of the Caribbean and to other parts of the world. In 1834, slavery was abolished in the British Empire, but abolition did not end Britain’s association with slavery. And yet, even as the British empire remained entrenched in the world of slavery, there were reformers who placed great faith in the liberal ideas of freedom and who sought justice, righteousness and the right to freedom and equality.

Thursday 22 October
30th anniversary of the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope
Everything from nothing: how our universe was made
Professor Carlos Frenk, Durham University
Cosmology addresses some of the most fundamental questions in science. How did our universe begin? What is it made of? How did galaxies form? In the past few decades, great progress has been made towards finding answers. While a coherent picture of cosmic evolution, going back to a tiny fraction of a second after the Big Bang, is beginning to emerge, fundamental issues – like the identity of the dark matter and the nature of the dark energy – remain unresolved.
**Tuesday 27 October**

The robotic alchemist - digital assembly of drugs and chemical brains

Professor Leroy (Lee) Cronin, University of Glasgow

We are entering the era of Digital Chemistry, where computer control can be used to monitor reactions, calculate reactivity and predict routes to targets, but what next? This lecture will explain how a programmable chemical computer or ‘chemputer’ can make the process of chemical synthesis safer, cheaper, and more reliable. Professor Cronin will explore how chemical computing can help search chemical space, explore large problems, and define a new roadmap that will aim to realise the dream of computing, not just with molecules, but with reactions.

**Thursday 29 October**

Oral History Lecture

After displacement: journeys of the mind and memory communities

Professor Indira Chowdhury, Centre for Public History, Srishti-Manipal Institute 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 that a new state was anxious to instil in all its citizens. This encounter between memory and history reveals the entangled dynamics between two kinds of journey – the journey that creates citizens and the inner journeys undertaken when remembering the vanished landscape of the past.
### Tuesday 3 November
**The rise of neoliberal feminism**
Professor Catherine Rottenberg, Nottingham University

In this talk, Catherine Rottenberg discusses her book, *The Rise of Neoliberal Feminism*, offering insight into why identifying as a feminist has increasingly become a source of cultural capital for high-profile women from Hillary Clinton to Ivanka Trump. She argues that neoliberalism may actually need feminism in order to ‘solve’ the thorny issues of reproduction and care work.

### Tuesday 10 November
**Birds and us: how we shaped them and they shaped us**
Professor Tim Birkhead, University of Sheffield

Professor Birkhead provides a broad history of the relationship between birds and humans over 12 millennia. This lecture will explore everything from the birds deified and mummified by Ancient Egyptians to Renaissance studies of woodpecker anatomy; from the kleptomania and taxonomic obsessions of Victorian ornithologists through to the present-day fight to save endangered species.

### Thursday 12 November
**Hostile environment: challenging anti-immigration myths**
Dr Maya Goodfellow, Writer and Academic

Tracing the history of the UK’s immigration debate, Dr Goodfellow will look at legislation that was introduced from the 1960s and how it was tied up with Empire. This lecture will consider how distinct forms of racism were reproduced by the party-political left and right, and will examine the impact this had on people who moved, or tried to move, to this country.
Tuesday 17 November
Lions of the North – the Percys and Alnwick Castle – 1000 years of history
Ralph Percy, 12th Duke of Northumberland
Throughout the last millennium, the Percys have played pivotal roles in British history suffering imprisonment, death in battle and execution along the way. The story of Alnwick Castle, their stronghold, is equally remarkable. A Medieval fortress, warfare had left it virtually derelict by the end of the 17th Century, but it re-emerged in the 18th Century as a palatial family residence and the focus for a large, thriving estate that remains to this day, generating revenue to restore and preserve that heritage and benefiting the local community and economy.

Thursday 19 November
‘Now we have your attention’: pandemics, protest, and politics from below
Jack Shenker, Journalist and Author
Coronavirus has forced many ongoing social crises into the light, while simultaneously expanding the horizons of political possibility. But who are the communities that are fighting for a different kind of Britain, and how will new forms of grassroots organising transform the country’s already fractious political landscape? Award-winning journalist and author Jack Shenker – who writes about how power functions and how it is contested – explores the struggles playing out far beyond Westminster.

Tuesday 24 November
Poetry that ‘will live and do good’. Reimagining Wordsworth
Jeff Cowton, Curator and Head of Learning, The Wordsworth Trust
So wrote Wordsworth from Dove Cottage in 1804, expressing his hopes for the work to which he was devoting his life; teaching people ‘to see, to think and feel’. This lecture will explore how the Wordsworth Trust, custodians of the poet’s house and manuscripts, works with different partners and audiences, seeking to fulfil Wordsworth’s hopes.
Thursday 26 November
New voices on science, agriculture and engineering
Three early-career researchers from the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering at Newcastle University explore new ideas through their research.

Tuesday 1 December
The first draft human genome at 20: how has genomics altered the way humanity understands itself?
Professor Steve Yearley, University of Edinburgh
This year marks twenty years since the first draft of the human genome was created, one of humankind’s most important scientific accomplishments. In this lecture, sociologist Professor Yearley will explore how this discovery has influenced our understanding of what it means to be human. Steve Yearley is Professor of the Sociology of Scientific Knowledge and Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh.

JOHN H HOLMES MEMORIAL LECTURES
FOR 10- TO 14-YEAR-OLDS
Women in STEM
The 2021 Holmes Lectures will be delivered by Newcastle University researchers with a focus on women and girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Wednesday 13 January 2021
Wednesday 20 January 2021
Further details will be released in due course at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures

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, as well as reflecting our core values of social and environmental justice and equality, diversity and inclusion.

From Newcastle.
D For Data O For One Planet P For Cities and Place
A For Ageing and Health C For Culture and Creative Arts
For the World.
At Newcastle University, we are committed to the health and safety of our students, colleagues and supporters. Due to ongoing concerns around Covid-19 we have chosen to offer a fully virtual lecture series in Autumn 2020.

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 30 minutes, plus 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 (e.g. 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.

Stay connected: Website: www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures
Email: public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk Twitter: @InsightsNCL

The information contained in this card can be provided in alternative formats on request – please contact the Public Lectures Office.

The information in this leaflet is correct at the time of going to print (August 2020). © Newcastle University. The University of Newcastle upon Tyne trading as Newcastle University. Designed by GDA, Northumberland. Printed by Statex Colour Print, Newcastle upon Tyne. on 100% recycled paper.