

# INSIGHTS

## Autumn programme

October 2024 – January 2025

Free admission



### Thursday 21 November 5.30pm

#### A multi-sensory journey to a black hole: Using sound to enhance data exploration, accessibility, and immersive education

D

Dr Chris Harrison, Newcastle University

The Universe is almost entirely invisible to the naked eye, yet we are only ever presented with astronomical data through visual representations. Taking us on a journey of astronomical objects from stars to supermassive black holes, this lecture will demonstrate how sound can provide an alternative method of exploring and communicating data and for making astronomy more accessible.

### Thursday 28 November 5.30pm

#### When healthcare harms: Why inclusive treatment of disabled people can avoid health inequities

AH

Professor Tom Shakespeare, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Tom Shakespeare has been training medical students about disability for nearly 35 years at Bristol, Cambridge, Leicester, Newcastle and Oxford Universities, and the University of East Anglia, as well as with the World Health Organisation. In this lecture, he will review evidence that disabled people suffer inequities in health and explore how healthcare can be inclusive of all.

### Tuesday 3 December 5.30pm

#### Sounding the Angel: Recording the grassroots memorial site at the Angel of the North

CCA

Professor Anne Whitehead and David de la Haye, Newcastle University

For some time there has been a grassroots memorial site in the small stand of trees at the feet of the Angel of the North. A year-long project has recorded the memorial through sound, combining interviews with people who have left tributes, field recordings of the site, and the voice of the Angel. We ask what the Angel means to those who commemorate their loved ones there, and how the site helps them to navigate grief.

## JOHN H HOLMES MEMORIAL LECTURES FOR 10- TO 14-YEAR OLDS

### Discover Engineering

The 2025 Holmes Lectures will be given by researchers from Newcastle University's School of Engineering.

#### Wednesday 15 January 2025 5.00-6.00pm

How engineering shapes our world

#### Wednesday 22 January 2025 5.00-6.00pm

Engineering for a better world

**Bookings open on 4 November.** To book a place visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures). For group bookings and school visits, please email the Public Lectures office at [public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk) or telephone our booking voicemail line **0191 208 6136**.

**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](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/who-we-are/strengths)

**From Newcastle.**

**D** For Data **OP** For One Planet **CP** For Cities and Place

**AH** For Ageing and Health **CCA** For Culture and Creative Arts

**For the world.**

Newcastle University welcomes you to its autumn 2024 INSIGHTS programme. Given by public figures and eminent scholars, our award-winning lecture series covers a wide range of topics and are held in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building. Unless otherwise stated, lectures begin at **5.30pm** and last for approximately one hour, including time for questions.

All our events remain free and open to all, but **pre-booking is required**. Bookings for lectures will open at **10.00am one week before the event**. To reserve your place visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures) or telephone our booking voicemail line **0191 208 6136**.

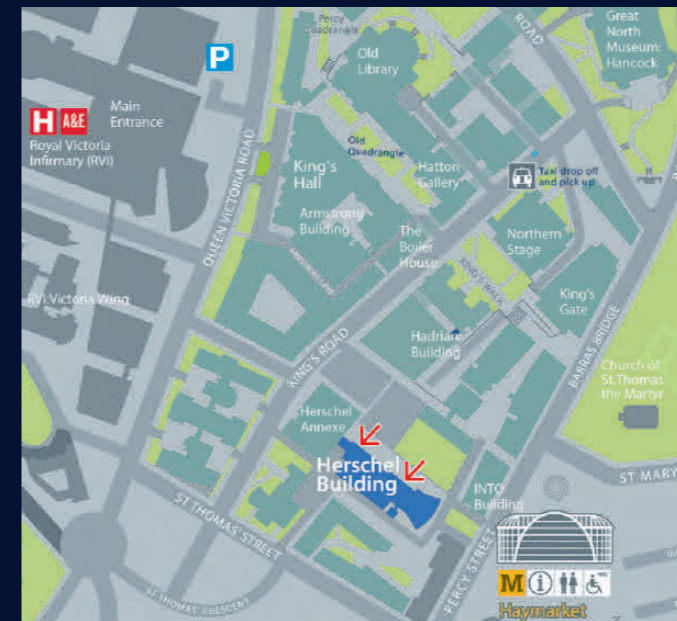
Recordings of some lectures will be available on our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures) after the lecture has taken place. To join our mailing list, please complete the online registration form.

The University will make all reasonable efforts to deliver INSIGHTS events. However, it may be necessary to make changes at short notice. Additions or changes to the programme will be published on our website.

**Stay connected:**

Website: [www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures)

Email: [public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk)



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 2024). © Newcastle University. The University of Newcastle upon Tyne trading as Newcastle University. Designed by GDA, Northumberland. Printed by Stateg Colour Print, Newcastle upon Tyne, on 100% recycled paper.

All of our events are free and open to all, but **pre-booking is required**. Bookings for lectures will open at **10.00am one week before the event**.

To reserve your place visit:  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures)  
or telephone our booking voicemail line:  
**0191 208 6136**

### ■ Tuesday 8 October 5.30pm Election 2024: A very British revolution

Peter Kellner, political commentator and former President of YouGov

The 2024 general election was the most remarkable in half a century. Overall, voters were clear what they did not want – another five years of Conservative rule – but far less clear what they did want. All kinds of records were broken as long-standing patterns of voting behaviour ceased to apply. As a result, the future of British politics looks more uncertain than ever.

### ■ Thursday 10 October 5.30pm

Black History Month Lecture  
**From black squares to full circles: Did the 2020 scramble for Black writers make a difference?**

Patrice Lawrence, writer and journalist

The 2023 film *American Fiction* probably garnered the longest, loudest laughs from Black writers. Based on the book *Erasure* by Percy Everett, it tells the tale of a disenfranchised African-American literary writer who inadvertently writes a bestseller incorporating every conceivable African-American stereotype. Could this happen here?

### ■ Tuesday 15 October 5.30pm Molds, mushrooms and medicines

Professor Nicholas P Money, Miami University

Our dependence on fungi extends from the yeasts of the gut mycobiome to the ecological activities of mushrooms. Some fungi support our health, others cause serious allergies and life-threatening infections. Fungi are sources of food and medicines, their toxins have shaped human history, and magic mushrooms open the doors of perception. This is the story of the human-fungus symbiosis both near and far.



### ■ Wednesday 16 October 6.00-7.30pm

Newcastle Debates

**Stronger together: How can we build a North East safe for all?**

The new Labour government has committed to halving serious violent crime and raising confidence in the police and criminal justice system. At the same time, the country has experienced a summer of significant social unrest. A panel of experts will discuss strategies to ensure North East streets are safe for all.



### ■ Tuesday 22 October 5.30pm New voices on arts, humanities and social sciences

Three early-career researchers from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Newcastle University will deliver talks describing their cutting-edge research.



### ■ Thursday 24 October 5.30pm Memorial dissonances: Undoing the Valley of Cuelgamuros in contemporary Spain

Francisco Ferrándiz, Spanish National Research Council

The Valley of Cuelgamuros (formerly known as Valley of the Fallen, or *Valle de los Caídos*) is the most conspicuous and unresolved Francoist monument in Spain. The site incorporates the exhumations of Franco and José Antonio Primo de Rivera, founder of the fascist party *Falange* and is central to ongoing debates about the Spanish Civil War and historical memory in the 21st century.

### ■ Wednesday 30 October 6.00pm

Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Lecture  
**The extramural settlements and bathhouse at Birdoswald**

Professor Ian Haynes, Newcastle University, and  
Tony Willmott, Historic England

This three-year collaborative project between Historic England and Newcastle University explored the eastern, western and northern areas outside the walls of Birdoswald Roman Fort. Along with evidence for zoning and the activities practised outside, an unexpected bonus of the excavations was the discovery of the exceptionally preserved furnace room of the fort bathhouse and evidence of a piped water supply.

### ■ Tuesday 5 November 5.30-7.00pm Our global future: How neuroscience, technology, and philosophy will shape society

Professor Nayef Al-Rodhan, University of Oxford

Neurophilosophy identifies the critical elements of human nature which have shaped history and argues that addressing basic human dignity is essential for social cohesion. Understanding the rise of new technologies – especially Artificial Intelligence – is ever more important for global security and peace. Professor Al-Rodhan and a panel of experts will discuss the future.

### ■ Thursday 7 November 5.30pm The 2024 United States Presidential Election

Emeritus Professor Iwan Morgan, University College London

American society – and its democracy – has experienced a tumultuous few years, and 2024 in particular has been one of remarkable political drama. Two days after the American people choose their 47th President, we consider their reasons, and the consequences.

### ■ Tuesday 12 November 5.30pm

Jack Jeffery Sustainability Lecture

**What a load of rubbish! Bins, behaviours and the circular economy**

Dr Helen Holmes, University of Manchester

Have you ever been confused about what goes in which bin? Perhaps you are concerned about whether your recycling actually does get recycled. What we do with our rubbish reveals a whole set of challenges, practices and unintended consequences: what do policies that attempt to transition our consumption and disposal practices towards a circular economy mean for households?

### ■ Thursday 14 November 5.30pm Making connections for a nature- and people-positive world

Professor Anusha Shah, President, Institution of Civil Engineers

Climate and nature, and ecosystems and human societies, are interdependent. Engineers and infrastructure professionals of today and tomorrow should focus not on building assets, but connections: leading a collaborative, transdisciplinary, ethics-based movement towards system-wide interventions that provide humanity with multiple benefits and restore and rejuvenate nature, rather than just do less harm to it.

