

INSIGHTS

Spring programme
February – May 2025
Free admission

■ **Tuesday 29 April 5.30pm**

British Academy Lecture

Neo-Brahmanism in modern India: Reformers and orthodoxy in the 19th century

Professor Tanika Sarkar, Ashoka University

A significant socio-cultural movement emerged in late colonial India to strengthen orthodox caste rituals and customs in the daily lives of Hindu people. It powerfully criticised and opposed Indian reformers who tried to change a few aspects of Hindu religious belief and social practices, especially in caste and gender relations. This lecture will explore both reformist and orthodox texts to reveal the ideological upheavals of the period.



■ **Thursday 15 May 5.30pm**

The Newcastle way: Leading advancements in neuromuscular research

Professor Volker Straub, Newcastle University

Launched in November 2014, the John Walton Muscular Dystrophy Research Centre consolidates Newcastle's world-leading record in research and care for neuromuscular diseases. Based at the Centre for Life and working across Newcastle University and the NHS, the Centre focusses on translational research to improve the health outcomes of those living with neuromuscular diseases. The lecture will focus on recent successes and explore developments in the field.



■ **Thursday 1 May 6.00–7.30pm**

Newcastle Debates

Economic empowerment: How can we drive growth in the North East?

The establishment of a North East Combined Authority and Mayor for the North East is intended to be a positive step towards reducing inequality and the North-South divide, but how can investment be targeted where we need it most? A panel of experts will discuss how we can drive growth and productivity in the region.



Bookings for this event open on 28 March at 10.00am


■ **Tuesday 6 May 5.30pm**

Tyneside Geographical Society Lecture

The making of the white working class: Race, class and identity in contemporary Britain

Kenan Malik, writer, lecturer and broadcaster

What is the white working class? Why has it become such a significant concept? And what does it tell us about the way we think of race and class? Answers involve historical shifts in the relationship between race and class; how white identity has become a means of rebranding racism; and whether those deemed 'white working class' are best served by the label.

If you enjoy INSIGHTS events, explore **From Newcastle**, a podcast featuring the latest developments in health, science and culture and the creative arts from Newcastle University.

Listen wherever you find your podcasts, or visit the website for more information: podcasts.ncl.ac.uk/fromnewcastle

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

From Newcastle.

 For Data  For One Planet  For Cities and Place

 For Ageing and Health  For Culture and Creative Arts

For the world.

Newcastle University welcomes you to its spring 2025 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 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 or telephone our booking voicemail line **0191 208 6136**.

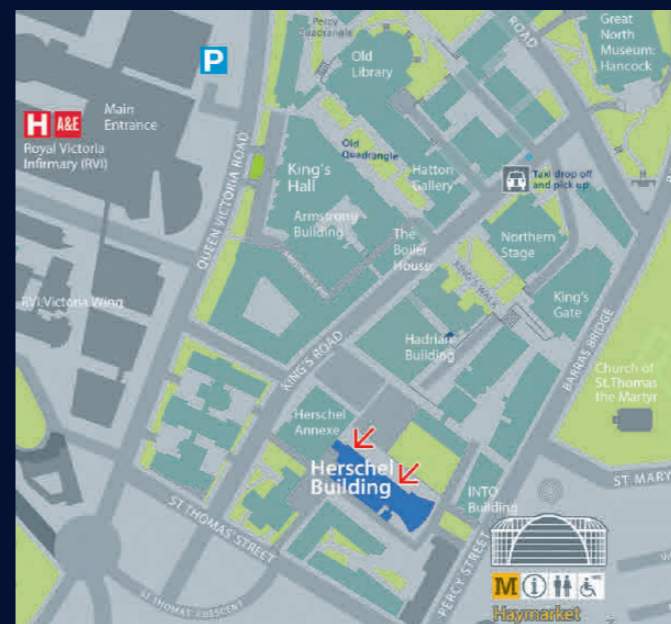
Recordings of some lectures will be available on our website at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures after the lecture has taken place. To join our mailing list, please complete the online registration form.

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

Email: 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 (January 2025). © 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
or telephone our booking voicemail line:
0191 208 6136

■ Tuesday 4 February 5.30pm

Fickling Lecture

The power of poetry

Joseph Coelho, poet and author



Poetry has been key in the speaker's practice – from using it as a means to get reluctant readers and writers to engage with literacy, to forming the bedrock from which he ventured out into writing in all sorts of mediums – from non-fiction to picture books, middle-grade to young adult to plays: poetry is threaded throughout his work for children.

■ Thursday 13 February 5.30pm

Defence Lecture

Defending the UK in unprecedented times

General Sir Patrick Sanders KCB CBE DSO, former Chief of the General Staff

Heads of the military and of the intelligence agencies agree that 2025 is a year of unusually serious and multilayered challenges. How the country chooses to deal with them – with low economic growth and with urgent demands on public spending elsewhere – is yet another.

■ Tuesday 18 February 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.



■ Thursday 20 February 5.30pm

Could bees have emotions?

Dr Vivek Nityananda, Newcastle University

Improving bee welfare is important since they are essential pollinators. This lecture will discuss recent research that uses an animal welfare approach to study emotion-like states in bees. Drawing on input from other disciplines and society, the speaker will talk about their recent work on pessimism in bees, how this is affected by stress and how we make sense of these scientific results.



■ Tuesday 25 February 5.30pm

Jubilee Development Lecture

Hot mess: What on earth can we do about climate change?

Dr Matt Winning, climate comedian and environmental researcher

This lecture blends comedy and informative content to encourage audiences to think about climate change in a more engaging and accessible way. The approach helps to break down barriers and encourages audiences to think critically about their own behaviours and the societal issues surrounding climate change.



■ Tuesday 4 March 5.30pm

LGBTQ+ History Month Lecture

Queer beyond London: LGBTQ lives in Brighton, Leeds, Manchester and Plymouth

Professor Matt Cook, University of Oxford

Queer urban life has changed dramatically: shifts in the economy, culture, attitudes, and technology have all played their part. London has often been used as the barometer but an exploration of the queer contours of Leeds, Manchester, Brighton and Plymouth shows how and why LGBTQ scenes, communities and identities could feel very different from place to place.

■ Thursday 6 March 5.30pm

The long march to women and children's rights – Coram and the Foundling Hospital

Dr Carol Homden, Chief Executive, Coram

Founded by Royal Charter, Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital in London has cared for babies and children from disadvantaged backgrounds since the eighteenth century. It has developed into a group of organisations supporting thousands of children, young people, and families, and has its own museum and public art gallery.

■ Thursday 13 March 5.30pm

British Science Week Event

In conversation with Dr Anne-Marie Imafidon

Our speaker, a social entrepreneur and computer scientist, is best known for her work as a champion of diversity in the tech industry and for co-founding Stemettes, a social enterprise that inspires and supports young girls and women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



■ Tuesday 18 March 5.30pm

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 cutting-edge research.



■ Wednesday 19 March 6.00–7.30pm

Newcastle Debates

Opportunities for all: How can we improve access to education and employment in the North East?

The Labour government has promised to reform the education system and break down barriers to opportunity. Meanwhile, reports indicate that a third of all babies, children and young people in the North East are living in poverty. A panel of experts will explore the solutions needed to create a brighter future in the region.

Bookings for this event open on 21 February at 10.00am



■ Thursday 27 March 5.30pm

Sir Eric Thomas Memorial Lecture

Optimising women's health benefits everyone in society: Why every nation should invest in a women's health strategy

Professor Dame Lesley Regan, Imperial College London

The first woman in the UK to hold a chair on obstetrics and gynaecology, our speaker combines her clinical work and research with a passion for communicating to the wider world. She has been the Women's Health Ambassador for England since 2022 and is a former President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, only the second woman to ever hold this role.

