



TIME TO THINK

Free Public Lectures
Autumn 2024

Welcome to the new academic year at Gresham College, London's oldest Institution of Higher Education. For over 400 years we have been providing university-level lectures for free to the public.

This term we will be providing over 30 lectures on diverse topics, from conspiracy theories, to modern witchcraft, immunity, and Bach - with plenty more to follow in the spring and summer terms.

Visit our website to see our full event listing - or to watch lectures from our back catalogue of over 2,500 videos.

www.gresham.ac.uk



GRESHAM COLLEGE HISTORY

Gresham College was London's first institute of higher education when it was founded in 1597 under the terms of Sir Thomas Gresham's Will. Unusually for the time, Gresham lectures were free and given in both English and Latin - most other higher education of the period was in Latin only - making them accessible to anyone who had the time to attend. We have been providing free education to the public ever since.

DON'T MISS...



A Mirror in the Sky

The Hubble Space Telescope is the most famous astronomical instrument of all time, providing us with iconic views, from a comet crashing into Jupiter to the very distant Universe. Professor Chris Lintott explains what Hubble has revealed about the life of stars, and our own cosmic origins.

Weds, 11 September 2024 • 7pm • Conway Hall / Live Online



Magical Mystery Tour The Invention of The Beatles

Professor Milton Mermikides analyses the 'psychedelic era' of the Beatles, from *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* to *Let it Be*, a period of staggering musical invention and experimentalism.

Thurs, 12 September 2024 • 6pm • LSO St. Luke's / Live Online



What is Modern Paganism?

What is modern Paganism, and how does it relate to witchcraft, Druidry and other phenomena? Professor Ronald Hutton explores the different traditions that make up Paganism today, what they have in common and what makes each unique.

Weds, 18 September 2024 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn / Live Online



PLUS...



Raising the Net Zero conversation

In a year of elections, politicians need to raise their game by not promising we can have our cake and eat it. Professor Myles Allen argues for "third way" climate solutions, designed to appeal to the broadest possible coalition.



Tues, 01 October 2024 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn / Live Online



Why Writing Women Back into History Matters

Professor Janina Ramirez rediscovers remarkable medieval women who wielded considerable influence and power. She will reveal and challenge the gradual erosion of female agency over subsequent centuries.

Tues, 05 November 2024 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn / Live Online



How Inequality Affects Mental Health

Dr Lade Smith explores why higher rates of mental illness are seen in minoritised and marginalised groups. Deprivation, poverty, and being from a minority group, are all associated with a higher risk.

Thurs, 21 November 2024 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn / Live Online

The Big Brain: Size and Intelligence

Professor Alain Goriely

17 Sep 2024



The Ancient History of Computers and Code

Professor Victoria Baines

24 Sep 2024



The Sondheim Showstopper: 'Send in the Clowns'

Dominic Broomfield-McHugh

17 Oct 2024



Is Your Money Safe? Unveiling Hidden Conflicts in Finance

Professor Raghavendra Rau • 21 Oct 2024



The US Constitution: A Catalogue of Complaints about Britain

Professor Clive Stafford Smith • 7 Nov 2024



Making Sense of Conspiracy Theories

Professor Peter Knight

14 Nov 2024



How Does Our Immune System Protect us?

Professor Robin May

27 Nov 2024

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



REGISTER FOR 2024–25 LECTURES

All our lectures are free to attend in person or watch live online. Registration to watch online is already available for all this year's events, via our website.

Registration for in-person tickets opens one-month ahead of the lecture date. Follow the links on our website to book your ticket via Eventbrite. We over-issue tickets because of no-shows, so please be aware a ticket will not guarantee entry. We therefore advise you to arrive 30 minutes in advance of the start time. We do not allow people to save seats.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE BOOKINGS

We offer school and college group bookings for most lectures. Please email: schools@gresham.ac.uk

VENUES

The majority of our lectures are held in Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, but other venues in central London are also used. Please check our website for the venue and the time the lecture starts. All our venues have disabled access. Please let us know, where possible, if you need assistance by emailing enquiries@gresham.ac.uk.



SUPPORTING GRESHAM COLLEGE

We are very grateful for the continued support of our sponsors, the City of London Corporation, the Mercers' Company, and our partners including the Frank Jackson Foundation and the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists. As Gresham receives no Government funding, it is thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and individual donors that we have been able to provide open access to our lectures. With your support, we will be able reach bigger and broader audiences than ever before, so that more people can benefit from our wealth of academic content.

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FULL PROGRAMME AUTUMN 2024

- 11 Sep **A Mirror in the Sky** Chris Lintott
- 12 Sep **Magical Mystery Tour: The Invention of The Beatles** Milton Mermikides
- 17 Sep **The Big Brain: Size and Intelligence** Alain Goriely
- 18 Sep **What is Modern Paganism?** Ronald Hutton
- 19 Sep **Human Rights Law: Bringing Power to the Powerless**
Clive Stafford Smith
- 24 Sep **The Ancient History of Computers and Code** Victoria Baines
- 26 Sep **Singing the Laws: Ancient Greek Lawgivers in History and Legend** Melissa Lane
- 01 Oct **Raising the Net Zero Conversation: How to Stop Climate Becoming a Wedge Political Issue** Myles Allen
- 02 Oct **Do Microbes have Immune Systems?** Robin May
- 03 Oct **Charismatic Leadership: Nature, Causes, and Consequences**
Matt Qvortrup
- 07 Oct **European Security: Building for the Long Term** Catherine Ashton
- 09 Oct **Much Ado About Numbers: Shakespeare's Mathematical Life and Times**
Rob Eastaway
- 16 Oct **Whither the Public Lecture?** Martin Elliott
- 17 Oct **The Sondheim Showstopper: 'Send in the Clowns'**
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh
- 21 Oct **Is Your Money Safe? Unveiling Hidden Conflicts in Finance**
Raghavendra Rau
- 22 Oct **Why Does Britain Have a Housing Crisis?** Martin Daunton
- 23 Oct **Bach's Invention: The Divine Trickery of J.S. Bach** Milton Mermikides
- 29 Oct **Messaging and Signals** Victoria Baines
- 30 Oct **The Origins of Modern Paganism** Ronald Hutton
- 05 Nov **Why Writing Women Back into History Matters** Janina Ramirez
- 06 Nov **The Health Gap: Achieving Social Justice in Public Health** Michael Marmot
- 07 Nov **The US Constitution: A Catalogue of Complaints about Britain**
Clive Stafford Smith
- 12 Nov **The Convoluted Brain: Wrinkles and Folds** Alain Goriely
- 14 Nov **Making Sense of Conspiracy Theories** Peter Knight
- 20 Nov **The Alfred Wiener Holocaust Memorial Lecture** Deborah Dwork
- 21 Nov **How Inequality Affects Mental Health** Lade Smith
- 25 Nov **Who's Minding the Store? Corporate Rules to Align Interests** Raghavendra Rau
- 26 Nov **Houston, We Have a Problem: How the Fossil Fuel Industry is Risking our Future and your Pension** Myles Allen
- 27 Nov **How Does Our Immune System Protect us?** Robin May
- 04 Dec **Black Holes and Bangs** Chris Lintott
- 05 Dec **'Is it in Pevsner?': A Short History of the 'Buildings of...' series**
Charles O'Brien
- 12 Dec **Unwrapping Irving Berlin's "White Christmas"**
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh



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