

# TIME TO THINK

## Free Public Lectures

Spring 2025



# For the Love of Learning, since 1597

The 2024-25 academic year continues at Gresham College, London's oldest institute of higher education. This term we will be providing 40 free lectures on topics ranging from robots to Jimi Hendrix, freedom of expression to the future of our cities.

Visit our website to register, view our full annual programme, or watch lectures from our back catalogue of over 2,500 videos.

Find us at: [www.gresham.ac.uk](http://www.gresham.ac.uk)  
[enquiries@gresham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@gresham.ac.uk)  
020 7831 0575



## SUPPORTING GRESHAM COLLEGE

"For more than four centuries, Gresham College has been sharing new ideas freely, with anyone interested in the City of London, and now beyond. The Gresham College community of thinkers and learners is unique in my experience as a Professor. We welcome your participation and your support for keeping this opportunity for learning free of charge."

**Melissa Lane**, Gresham Professor of Rhetoric

**DONATE TODAY!** [gres.hm/donation](https://www.gresham.ac.uk/donation)

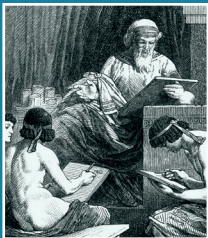
# DON'T MISS...



## Touching the Sun

Using results from NASA's Parker Solar Probe – the fastest moving human-made object ever – and ESA's Solar Orbiter, this spectacular lecture by Professor Chris Lintott takes a new look at the mysteries of the Sun, and its effects on the Earth.

Wed, 15 January 2025 • 7pm • Conway Hall / Live Online



## Writing the Laws: Hammurabi to Solon

When and why do written laws emerge in ancient societies? Professor Melissa Lane considers these questions and explores how writing relates to the functions of law more generally, in light of modern debates in legal philosophy.

Thu, 23 January 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online



## Why Does Britain Have a Water and Sewage Crisis?

The discharge of raw sewage into rivers, and the financial problems of major water companies', have become serious political and social concerns. Professor Martin Daunton traces the history, and considers the future, of public ownership.

Tue, 11 February 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

# PLUS...



## The UK's Generational Wealth Gap



The UK's income inequality has remained stable since the 1990s, but household wealth has nearly doubled, widening the wealth gap between generations. Professor Mike Brewer unpacks these economic trends.

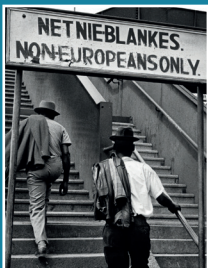
**Tue, 18 February 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online**



## Banned Books and Freedom of Expression

Professor Rachel Potter explores how the right to free expression is severely threatened in many parts of the world, focusing on banned literature, and including the impact of technology on censorship and free speech.

**Wed, 12 March 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online**



## Documentary Photography in Apartheid South Africa

Professor Tamar Garb explores debates and dialogues around realist photography in Apartheid South Africa (1948-94). She looks at the tensions between advocacy, propaganda and the 'struggle', and the poetics of everyday life.

**Tue, 25 March 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn / Live Online**



## 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 available now for all this year's lectures via our website.

Registration for in-person tickets opens one month ahead of the lecture's 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 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, plus we broadcast several schools-only lectures each term. Please email [schools@gresham.ac.uk](mailto:schools@gresham.ac.uk) for more information.

### VENUES

We host the majority of our lectures in Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, but other central London venues are also used. Please check our website for more detail on lecture venues / timings. If you have any accessibility requirements, please let us know by emailing [enquiries@gresham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@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.

# FULL PROGRAMME SPRING 2024

- 07 Jan **Who's Afraid of Robots?**  
Victoria Baines • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 08 Jan **The Modern Goddess**  
Ronald Hutton • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 09 Jan **Writing a British Constitution**  
Clive Stafford Smith • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 14 Jan **Science-Based targets, Greenwashing and Brownscreaming: Net Zero in the Private Sector**  
Myles Allen • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 15 Jan **Touching the Sun**  
Chris Lintott • 7pm • Conway Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 16 Jan **Breaking the Fourth Wall of Sound: The Paradox of Screen Music**  
Milton Mermikides • 7.30pm • Rich Mix, Shoreditch / Live Online
- 20 Jan **The Hidden Risks of "I Know Something You Don't"**  
Raghavendra Rau • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 23 Jan **Writing Laws: Hammurabi to Solon**  
Melissa Lane • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 28 Jan **The Value of Public Space**  
Liza Fior • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 29 Jan **Green Immunity – How Do Plants Fight infection?**  
Robin May • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 03 Feb **Trust Issues: When Financial "Experts" Have Other Plans**  
Raghavendra Rau • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 04 Feb **The Connected Brain: Network and Communication**  
Alain Goriely • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 06 Feb **The Operatic Showstopper: 'You'll Never Walk Alone'**  
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh • 7pm • Conway Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 11 Feb **Why Does Britain Have a Water and Sewage Crisis?**  
Martin Daunt • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 18 Feb **The UK's Generational Wealth Gap**  
Mike Brewer • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 19 Feb **The Return of the Horned God**  
Ronald Hutton • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 20 Feb **Unwritten Laws? Legacies from Antigone and Lysurgus**  
Melissa Lane • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online



- 25 Feb **Data: A Love Story for the Ages**  
Victoria Baines • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 26 Feb **The Biggest Cosmic Map**  
Chris Lintott • 7pm • Conway Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 27 Feb **Is the First Amendment the Greatest Right of All?**  
Clive Stafford Smith • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 4 Mar **Carbon Offsetting: Does It Really Work?**  
Myles Allen • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 6 Mar **Divine Law, Human Prophet: Moses in Hebrew and Greek**  
Melissa Lane • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 12 Mar **Banned Books and Freedom of Expression**  
Rachel Potter • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 13 Mar **Just Ask The Axis: Jimi Hendrix Unpicked**  
Milton Mermikides • 7pm • Rich Mix, Shoreditch / Live Online
- 18 Mar **The Turbulent Brain: Rhythms and Waves**  
Alain Goriely • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 19 Mar **The Case for Basic Income**  
Guy Standing • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 25 Mar **Documentary Photography in Apartheid South Africa**  
Tamar Garb • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 26 Mar **How Do Vaccines Work?**  
Robin May • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 27 Mar **Architecture of Enslavement, Colonialism and Independence: The Story of James Fort in Accra**  
Elsie Owusu OBE • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 1 Apr **Why Are Cities Going Bankrupt?**  
Martin Daunton • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 2 Apr **Modern Druids**  
Ronald Hutton • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 3 Apr **The LGBT+ Showstopper: 'I Am What I Am'**  
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh • 7pm • Conway Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 8 Apr **How Surveillance Works**  
Victoria Baines • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 10 Apr **What Rights and Duties are Missing from the U.S. Constitution?**  
Clive Stafford Smith • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn / Live Online
- 14 Apr **The 2025 Annual Lord Mayor's Event**  
6pm • Guildhall, City of London / Live Online





EST. 1597

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