

GRESHAM COLLEGE



Lectures that Inspire

Autumn 2025

Time to Think



The 2025–26 lecture programme has arrived! Journey from AI and ancient politics to the maths and music of nature, photography, and modern China. This year's free lectures explore society, science, beliefs, and the universe. Plus, enjoy the inaugural series from our new Professors of IT, Business, and the Environment.

Visit our website to register, view our full annual programme, or watch lectures from our back catalogue of over 3,500 videos.

Find us at: www.gresham.ac.uk
enquiries@gresham.ac.uk
020 7831 0575



SUPPORTING GRESHAM COLLEGE

"I am honoured to uphold the legacy of the oldest chair of mathematics, and a position of deep respect within the mathematical community. Public lectures allow us to bring the beauty and rigour of maths to everyone, enhancing understanding and inspiring new generations. **I encourage you to support our mission to keep these lectures free and accessible to all by donating today.**"

Alain Goriely,
Gresham Professor of Geometry

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DON'T MISS...



Earth – Our Planetary Life Support System

Professor Helen Czerski explores Earth's two fundamental rules – energy flow from Sun to space and continual matter recycling – building an outsider's perspective on our interconnected planetary system.

Thu, 11 Sep 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online



Evoking Empathy through Animal Portraiture

Photographer Tim Flach explains how he uses human portraiture techniques to evoke empathy for animals, inspiring conservation through visual storytelling at the intersection of art, science, and social awareness.

Thu, 02 Oct 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online



Whither War; Whither the Law of War

Against the backdrop of ongoing conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, Professor Sir Geoffrey Nice KC examines legal and informal processes addressing war crimes, questioning whether such mechanisms can prevent future atrocities.

Tue, 21 Oct 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

PLUS...



Becoming AI – Your Journey to Assimilation?

Professor Matt Jones investigates how digital services are already making us more machine-like, exploring how advanced AI-human fusion may undo our essential “humanness”.

Tue, 25 Nov 2025 • 6pm • Barnard’s Inn Hall / Live Online



Where Is China Heading under Xi Jinping?

Professor Steve Tsang analyzes Xi Jinping’s domestic and global ambitions under *Xi Jinping Thought*, aiming for national unity, ideological control, and China’s “great rejuvenation.”

Thu, 27 Nov 2025 • 1pm • Barnard’s Inn Hall / Live Online



The Nutcracker’s Musical Magic



Professor Dominic Broomfield-McHugh explores Tchaikovsky’s Christmas classic *The Nutcracker*, examining how the composer’s musical techniques - including the use of the celesta to illustrate magic - shapes the storytelling across the ballet’s contrasting movements.

Mon, 15 Dec 2025 • 7.00pm • Conway Hall / Live Online

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION



REGISTERING FOR 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 and we broadcast several schools-only lectures each term. Please email schools@gresham.ac.uk for more information.

VENUES

We host the majority of our lectures in Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, but also use other central London venues. Please check our website for more details on lecture venues and timings. If you have any accessibility requirements, please let us know by emailing 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 could attend. We have been providing free education to the public ever since.

FULL PROGRAMME AUTUMN 2025

All lectures take place at **6pm in Barnard's Inn Hall**, Holborn, London EC1N 2HH unless otherwise stated. All lectures are broadcast live online.

- 09 Sep **Automation Anxiety** Daniel Susskind
- 11 Sep **Earth - Our Planetary Life Support System**
Helen Czerski
- 16 Sep **The Shape of Hands: Symmetry, Chirality and Handedness** Alain Goriely
- 17 Sep **The Great God Pan: Lord of the Wild** Ronald Hutton
- 18 Sep **Lessons from Guantánamo Bay** Clive Stafford Smith
- 22 Sep **Shakespeare's Musical Fairies**
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh • 7pm • Conway Hall
- 23 Sep **AI Will Be Your Overlord: Faster, Brighter, Better Than You?** Matt Jones
- 24 Sep **How It Ends: What We Know about the Fate of the Universe** Chris Lintott • 7pm • Conway Hall
- 30 Sep **Hitler, Jesus & How to Win a Culture War** Alec Ryrie
- 01 Oct **Why Do We Fear?** Robin May
- 02 Oct **Evoking Empathy through Animal Portraiture**
Tim Flach
- 08 Oct **How Does Mathematics Last? Heritage and Heritage-making in Mathematics** Caroline Ehrhardt
- 14 Oct **War's Toxic Legacy** Ian Mudway
- 15 Oct **China and Chineseness: Lessons from the Chinese Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan** Steve Tsang • 1pm
- 16 Oct **From Tyranny to Athenian Democracy** Melissa Lane
- 21 Oct **Whither War; Whither the Law of War** Geoffrey Nice
- 27 Oct **The Economics of Work and Technology**
Daniel Susskind



- 29 Oct **Music of Animals** Milton Mermikides • LSO St Luke's
- 30 Oct **Ocean: The Liquid Engine That Dominates Our Planet**
Helen Czerski
- 03 Nov **China's Economic Prospects on the Cusp** George Magnus
- 04 Nov **Minor Criminal: The Trial of the Man Who Murdered My Grandmother** Daniel Finkelstein
- 05 Nov **Do Not Resuscitate Forms - Who'd Have One?**
Mark Taubert • 1pm
- 05 Nov **Limitarianism and Capitalism** Ingrid Robeyns
- 06 Nov **How Women Made the Global Economy**
Victoria Bateman • 1pm
- 11 Nov **The Shape of Plants: Why Plants Love Mathematics and Mathematicians Love Plants** Alain Goriely
- 12 Nov **Why Do We Laugh?** Robin May
- 17 Nov **The Later Years: Organisation, Independence and Peace of Mind** Peter Thornton
- 25 Nov **Becoming AI – Your Journey to Assimilation?** Matt Jones
- 26 Nov **Hecate: Mistress of Magic** Ronald Hutton
- 27 Nov **Where Is China Heading under Xi Jinping?**
Steve Tsang • 1pm
- 27 Nov **Society and Survival during the Holocaust**
Mary Fulbrook
- 01 Dec **Photobiography** Martin Parr
- 03 Dec **From Mars with Love: Postcards from 50 Years of Exploring The Red Planet** Chris Lintott • 7pm • Conway Hall
- 04 Dec **Donald Trump and the Death Penalty** Clive Stafford Smith
- 10 Dec **Life, Death and Judgement in the Art and Times of Hieronymus Bosch (d. 1516)** Sophie Oosterwijk
- 15 Dec **The Nutcracker's Musical Magic**
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh • 7pm • Conway Hall



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