

GRESHAM COLLEGE

Lectures that Inspire

Summer 2026



Time to Think



Our 2025–26 lecture programme continues, spanning an extraordinary range of subjects - from the maths behind tiles, to the god Dionysus, nudes in Chinese art, and the music of the body. Watch us online or in-person and explore the forces that shape our society and its institutions, the frontiers of science, the histories of belief, and the mysteries of the universe.

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

“The span of all human knowledge represents a gigantic collective endeavour, and the Gresham College Professors enthusiastically invite the public to share freely in these intellectual riches. **Please consider supporting us, so we can continue this important tradition.**”

Helen Czerski
Professor of the Environment

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DON'T MISS...



The Science of Puppetry - How Real Can They Be?

Professor Robin May and renowned puppet builder Steve Allen discuss the science of making puppets come to life and what our interactions with puppets may mean for our understanding of human emotion.

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



The Pill and the Planet

Can we have both a healthy aging population and a sustainable future? Professor Ian Mudway explores the pollution from single-use plastics, pharmaceuticals, and medical waste, questioning whether we can sustain this model.

Tue, 12 May • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online



Should We Manipulate People's Emotions?

As we become more adept at manipulating the brain chemistry behind emotions, Professor Robin May asks, how will we navigate the ethical minefield that this will uncover? What will it mean for our understanding of who we really are?

Wed, 20 May • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

PLUS...



Pluto Isn't a Planet

Exploring the remote Kuiper Belt, Professor Chris Lintott challenges us to think about what kinds of scientific questions are worth our attention, what it means to name something, and why Pluto is worth caring about anyway.

Wed, 03 June • 7pm • Conway Hall / Live Online



The Death of the Roman Republic?

Did the Roman republic die with Julius Caesar? With Cicero? Or Caesar's adoptive son, 'Augustus'? Professor Melissa Lane interrogates the ways in which a popular constitution can be undermined and gradually transmuted into a dictatorial one.

Thu, 18 June • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online



On the Nature of Time According to Modern Physics

Is time a fundamental feature of reality or merely an emergent property from something deeper? Does time 'flow'? Professor Jim Al-Khalili gives our best guess answers to these and other questions in the Annual Sir Thomas Gresham Lecture.

Tue, 23 June • 7pm • 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 for others.

If you are from a UK school or college and want to bring a school group to one of our public lectures, please email schools@gresham.ac.uk

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. This venue is wheelchair accessible, but please contact us before the lecture so we can reserve an appropriate space for you. You are also welcome to reach out with any specific accessibility questions or additional needs: enquiries@gresham.ac.uk | +44 (0)20 7831 0575



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 SUMMER 2026

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

- 13 Apr **"Unsquaring" the Square Mile: Connecting People with Opportunity** Susan Langley • The Guildhall
- 15 Apr **Music of the Mind**
Milton Mermikides • **LSO St Luke's**
- 16 Apr **The Dictionary City: Londoners and the Oxford English Dictionary** Sarah Ogilvie
- 20 Apr **A World Without Work** Daniel Susskind
- 21 Apr **Taming AI** Matt Jones
- 22 Apr **Why Do We Love?** Robin May
- 23 Apr **The Science of Puppetry - How Real Can They Be?**
Steve Allen
- 28 Apr **The Shape of Tiles: Regular and Irregular, Hard and Soft**
Alain Goriely
- 29 Apr **The Sky at Night, Tonight: A New View of the Changing Sky** Chris Lintott • **7pm** • **Conway Hall**
- 30 Apr **Give Peace a Chance: legal implications of the Israel-Palestine Conflict** Clive Stafford Smith
- 05 May **Music, Death and Afterlife** Mieko Kanno
- 06 May **Dionysus: Lord of Misrule** Ronald Hutton
- 07 May **Making Memory Visible Through Photography**
Julia Winckler
- 11 May **How Hard is too Hard? An Introduction to Complexity**
The London Mathematical Society Lecture
Colva Roney-Dougal

- 12 May **The Pill and the Planet: Can We Have Both a Healthy Aging Population and a Sustainable Future?** Ian Mudway
- 13 May **Music of the Body**
Milton Mermikides • [LSO St Luke's](#)
- 18 May **Society and Survival during the Holocaust** Mary Fulbrook
- 20 May **Should We Manipulate People's Emotions?** Robin May
- 21 May **The White Knight: Ice** Helen Czerski
- 26 May **Education - And Its Limits** Daniel Susskind
- 27 May **Going Global: Independent Chinese Documentary**
Luke Robinson
- 28 May **Plato to Polybius on Constitutional Change** Melissa Lane
- 02 Jun **Forging Better Futures for You and AI** Matt Jones
- 03 Jun **Pluto Isn't a Planet**
Chris Lintott • 7pm • [Conway Hall](#)
- 04 Jun **Current Challenges to the US Constitution**
Clive Stafford Smith
- 08 Jun **The Subversive Nude in Modern China** Di Wang
- 09 Jun **The Shape of Knots: From DNA to Shoestrings and Solar Flares** Alain Goriely
- 11 Jun **Cicero In and On Political Crises** Melissa Lane
- 15 Jun **There Must be a Better Way: Thoughts on the Future of Family Law** The Gray's Inn Reading • Andrew McFarlane
- 17 Jun **The Morrigan: The Nightmare Queen** Ronald Hutton
- 18 Jun **The Death of the Roman Republic?** Melissa Lane
- 19 Jun **Music of Sleep and Dreams**
Milton Mermikides • [LSO St Luke's](#)
- 23 Jun **On the Nature of Time According to Modern Physics**
The Annual Sir Thomas Gresham Lecture
Jim Al-Khalili • 7pm • [Conway Hall](#)
- 26 Jun **Gresham Festival of Astronomical Ideas**



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