

# café

**culture**2006



fortnightly,  
first and third  
**mondays**

# café

## culture2006

### What is **caféculture**?

**Caféculture** events aim is to provide an accessible space for intelligent debate on science, culture and politics. Each **caféculture** will open with a speaker talking for about 30 minutes, with the remaining time devoted to questions and discussion.

All events are **free and open to all**.

### **Venue: World Headquarters, Curtis Mayfield House, Carliol Square, Newcastle**

All events start at **7pm** prompt and should conclude around **9pm**. Bar, wheelchair access, sorry no food.

**Monday 16 January** **caféscientifique**

### **a new year: a new you?**

**Amelia Lake** (nutritionist, University of Newcastle)

Amelia will get to grips with those seasonal resolutions about diet and health. Are you all going to take out gym membership and set optimistic goals? Will you eat those five fruit and veg? Is behaviour change at this time of year really a good idea?

**Monday 6 February** café**politique**

## **rich to poor: can philanthropy deliver social good?**

**George Hepburn** (Community Foundation)

**Ian Gregg** (former Chairman, Greggs plc)

Exploring the changing face of philanthropy. In the past, philanthropists delivered what the state did not provide. What is the scope for philanthropy in the UK today? Is there a bigger role to be nurtured? Or will only a small proportion of the very rich be interested in philanthropic goals?

**Monday 20 February** café**scientifique**

## **uncanny valley : living with living machines**

**Richard Evans** (author of *Machine Nation* and *Robophobia*)

For the last 40 years, scientists around the world have been working towards realising the dream of creating humanoid robots. Now, as walking, thinking and even feeling robots and androids take their first tentative steps into reality, hear about the latest research into humanoid robotics and discuss the ethical and social implications of the coming world of artificial helpers, friends and lovers. Richard researched his acclaimed futuristic thrillers at MIT.

**Monday 6 March** café**scientifique**

## **artificial life and virtual reality**

**Steve Grand** (Cyberlife Research)

To celebrate the AV Festival, an evening with acclaimed programmer Steve Grand (job: Digital God), whose innovative work on the Creatures game and Lucy the robot is described in his books *Creation: life and how to make it* and *Growing up with Lucy*. Can something that happens inside a computer ever be really alive, or really real? What does this imply for our traditional understanding of reality?

**Monday 20 March** café**culturel**

**comparing cities,  
comparing cultures**

**Bill Lancaster**

(Centre for Northern Studies, Northumbria University)

Ten years ago Bill Lancaster wrote in the *Northern Review* comparing city cultures in Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle. Revisiting the topic and the cities, Bill will look at some significant trends in urban life during the last decade.

**Monday 3 April** café**philosophique**

**public support of the arts  
and social justice**

**Jonathan Wolff**

It is claimed that public funding of the arts is 'regressive' because tax is used to subsidize activities enjoyed primarily by wealthier members of society. On this view, social justice requires diversion of funds away from the arts towards services for the disadvantaged. Jo will assess this argument, and explore how a social justice agenda might also support public spending on the arts. Wolff is Professor of Philosophy at UCL, and has recently contributed to public policy on gambling and animal research.

**Monday 15 May** café**scientifique**

**thoughts on science from  
a freelance philosopher**

**Mary Midgley**

One of Britain's most renowned and best-loved thinkers, Mary has written about animals, about Darwinism, and about the Gaia hypothesis. We are delighted to welcome her back to raise more questions about science and society.

Monday 5 June

bookclubsummit

## ice road

Gillian Slovo

First coming to fame for her memoir of life with her anti-apartheid activist parents (*Every Secret Thing*), Gillian has since written a series of acclaimed thrillers, including *Red Dust*, also set in South Africa. Her latest, the political love story *Ice Road*, is set in 1933 Leningrad. Read the book in advance and come with your comments and questions.

Monday 19 June

caféscientifique

## how gay are your genes?

Lisa Matthews

Twin studies suggest that sexuality may partly be influenced by genetics. Dean Hamer famously identified a region of the X chromosome which may be involved. For the last two years, writer Lisa has been working with the region's lesbian, gay and bisexual community to explore their attitudes and responses to genetics, and their views on sexuality.

Monday 3 July

cafépolitique

## dads of the future: how can we encourage more active fathers?

**Duncan Fisher** (Fathers Direct, Equal Opportunities Commission)

**Roger Olley** (Fathers Plus project, Children North East)

This event asks how we can engage a new generation of active fathers. Are fathers supported adequately to take an active role in child care? Does current policy reinforce the stereotype of the father as breadwinner and the mother as carer? How could we shape services to support fathers effectively?

# café**culture**2006

Events organised by PEALS, Culture North East, ippr north and Newcastle Philosophy Society, with sponsorship from Culture North East, University of Newcastle and World Headquarters.

Enquiries or mailing list requests to:

**peals@ncl.ac.uk**

Other café philosophique events can be found at:

**[www.newcastlephilosophysociety.org.uk/](http://www.newcastlephilosophysociety.org.uk/)**



**CULTURE  
NORTHEAST**



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