

caféculture 2013-14

Café Culture welcomes you to café-style discussions on culture, politics, philosophy and science. Open to all, no need to book, no prior knowledge needed, just a like-minded desire for convivial and lively banter. Events are free.

Sign up for regular updates and any unexpected changes by emailing cafeculturene@gmail.com or via the website www.cafeculturenortheast.org.uk.

Events run 7-9pm at **Ginger's Café, Dance City, Temple Street, Newcastle NE1 4BR (unless otherwise stated)** a three-minute walk from Central Station (see website for location details). Snacks and drinks available. Wheelchair accessible.

9 September 2013 caféscientifique

Northern Stage, Barras Bridge, Newcastle NE1 7RH, 3.30–5pm

Involuntary Sterilisation: Not a thing of the past?

As part of the British Science Association Festival, **Tom Shakespeare** will consider how in the first half of the twentieth century sterilisation was used for eugenic purposes to stop 'undesirables reproducing'. By C21, you might expect policies which ensure full, free and informed consent. So why is sterilisation without proper consent, particularly among disabled, Roma, HIV+ or trans people, still occurring in some countries?

23 September 2013 cafépolitique

Shirkers' and Strivers?: Myths about worklessness

Tracy Shildrick, Teesside University, will consider popular and political representations of worklessness. In particular, she will engage with the popular idea that cultures of worklessness are to blame for people who have been long-term out of work.

7 October 2013 caféphilosophique

Why nothing matters

Nothing as the secret of life. History, philosophy, religion, science, art, literature, music – all look towards nothing at some point. **Ronald Green** will explore how Nothing allows us to look at the world in a different way, to give new angles to old problems and so stimulate questions that would otherwise not be asked.



21 October 2013 **caféscientifique**

Seeing through the patient's eyes

Patient feedback is a key measure of NHS performance: but can patients rate the quality of healthcare? **Chris Graham**, Picker Institute, Oxford, explores methods to involve patients in improving healthcare.



4 November 2013 **caféculturel**

The role of arts and physics in cosmology

Are tools of visualisation enough to interpret dark matter and the invisibility of quantum physics? **Fiona Crisp**, Northumbria University, will discuss the cultural negotiation of science, particularly around ideas of visualisation and our imaginative capacity to assimilate paradigmatic.



18 November 2013 **caféscientifique**

Politics of the tooth fairy

Professor Jan Clarkson, Dundee University, considers the significant impact of oral disease on history. Dental pain has led to countries being invaded as well as the development of what are now routine techniques such as general anaesthesia. Whilst oral health has improved, basic questions – how often should you go to the dentist? what type of toothbrush should you use? should holes in teeth be filled? – remain unanswered.



2 December 2013 **caféculturel**

Can we afford a cultural life?

In times of austerity and unprecedented inequality, **Erica Whyman**, Deputy Artistic Director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, will explore how we convince one another that cultural and creative engagement remains essential.



16 December 2013 **caféscientifique**

HIV: Dead or alive?

Connor Rogerson, Newcastle University, will discuss whether 'cured of HIV' news stories are a sign that HIV and AIDS could soon be a thing of the past, or whether HIV is just too cunning for us to tackle.



20 January 2014 **caféculturel**

The Story Dances Off The Page

Literary experimentation and writing for the young. **David Almond** considers whether children and their creativity can help us understand what a book can be?



3 February 2014 caféscientifique

Bird on the Brink: England's hen harriers

Join us on the front line of British conservation with England's most threatened and controversial bird of prey. **Blanaid Denman**, RSPB, will discuss whether we can save them or if it is too late.



17 February 2014 cafépolitique

Whose Countryside? Power and inequality in rural Britain

Poverty and social exclusion exist in rural Britain too, it's just not so visible. So how might we tackle it? **Professor Mark Shucksmith**, Director of the Newcastle Institute for Social Renewal and former Commission for Rural Communities board member, argues that our idyllic view of rural areas blinds us to the hidden poverty and social exclusion which threatens one in three people.



3 March 2014 caféscientifique

Fit for Life: Do chairs cause heart attacks?

Every day we make decisions that have a positive influence on our risks of developing disease and maintaining wellbeing across life. **Mike Trennell**, Professor of Movement and Motabilism, Newcastle University, will explore state-of-the-art evidence on why moving more and sitting less could be one of the most important decisions in your day.



17 March 2014 cafépolitique

How Much is Enough? Money and the good life

What is the true value of money? What is a good life? Do we work long hours merely to make more money? **Professor Lord Robert Skidelsky**, Warwick University, will address these questions and others, drawing on examples from his recent book to explore the existence of the good life and how we can strive to live it.



7 April 2014 caféculturel

Big Leaps: the local and global in contemporary dance

Dance artist **Gillie Kleiman** will discuss her curatorial project *Scripts for Solos*, in which North East-based dancers perform choreographies created around the world, exploring notions of place, sustainability, success and scale.



19 May 2014 caféphilosophique

Who do you think you are?

Who do you think you are? Is there really an 'I' or a 'You'? Neuroscience struggles with the notion of 'the self', the object that human consciousness appears to reveal. Can philosophy help? **Mike Spencer** explores whether we exist only through and in our human relationships?



2 June 2014 caféphilosophique

Overcoming Evil with Good: The power, limits and risks of forgiveness

Over the last 25 years, forgiveness has resurfaced as a positive way ahead for victims of unjust harm. **Dr Stephen Cherry**, author of *Healing Agony: Reimagining Forgiveness*, will consider forgiveness from ethical, spiritual and psychological perspectives using real-life stories in his discussion.



16 June 2014 caféculturel

The Politics of Lightness

The quality of lightness is sometimes claimed or ascribed to works of art, theatre, literature and dance. **Simon Murray**, University of Glasgow, will draw on examples from theatre, visual arts and literature. He will examine how the term is used and suggest there is an affirmative and potentially radical quality in the 'politics of lightness'.



7 July 2014 caféscientifique

Alcohol: Our favourite drug but whose problem?

Alcohol is a long-established part of popular culture but can the UK afford the £20 billion annual cost due to heavy drinking? **Eileen Kaner**, Newcastle University, will explore the health and social consequences of heavy drinking and discuss how best we can address it.



14 July 2014 caféphilosophique

Reflections of an armchair philosopher

Mike Jenkins is puzzled by people who persist with ideas that are shown by experience to be flawed. He will look at economic boom and bust; apocalyptic prophecy from revelation to eco-catastrophe; religious and atheistic fundamentalism.



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A unique collaboration, organised by



North East England branch

Ginger's Café at Dance City



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DANCECITY

