Society & Culture
Tea-Time talks

This new series launches in October 2014 with the theme of Society and Culture. Our talks will provide you with a valuable and interesting introduction to the social sciences. They will consider some of the challenging and controversial issues that our society faces today, and will demonstrate the unique relevance of the research and scholarship that our academic staff carry out on a daily basis. Come along and take the opportunity to learn from the people who care about the issues that interest you!

Sessions are open to everyone, whether you are a member of the general public, a student, Hull alumni or a member of staff.

No prior experience is necessary, just an enquiring mind and a little enthusiasm for the subject.

Who are social scientists and how do they think?
Tuesday 7 October, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Lisa Dikomitis, Lecturer in Social Research, School of Social Sciences
An interactive introduction to social sciences in Hull.
This talk will introduce the Society and Culture Tea Time Series at the University of Hull. Dr Dikomitis will explain about the different approaches within social sciences at Hull and will ask, who are the social scientists at Hull, how do they think and what do they do? Dr Dikomitis will use examples from ongoing projects at the School of Social Sciences and will ask for your help in solving the ‘social science’ puzzle each research project poses.

Women’s identities, wellbeing and mental health through the life course
Tuesday 14 October, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Suzanne Clisby, Director of Postgraduate Gender Studies and Lecturer in Social Sciences, School of Social Sciences
Led by women’s life history accounts of growing up and growing older in the north of England, and based on research with more than 500 women from the Yorkshire and Humber region, this lecture explores how experiences of becoming and being a woman both enable and erode self-confidence and esteem. Here, we consider how constructions of femininity can fundamentally affect women’s mental wellbeing at key stages throughout their life course in ways that can have profound impacts on the material conditions of women’s lives.

Diagnostic vertigo: The journey to lupus
Tuesday 21 October, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Liz Walker, Reader in Social Work and Head of Social Work and Dr Liz Price, Senior Lecturer in Social Work and Deputy Director of Social Work, School of Social Sciences
While the diagnostic criteria appear relatively straightforward, the diagnosis of lupus, in practice, is far from simple. Lupus is known as the ‘great imitator’, since it mimics many other conditions. The range of symptoms, their sometimes transient nature and the myriad ways in which lupus can affect the body, mean it is a condition characterised by symptomatic uncertainty, fluidity and continual flux and change. This creates a range of diagnostic dilemmas and challenges for patients and practitioners. In this presentation, we will focus on the ways in which these dilemmas are experienced by people living with lupus.

Natural burial: Landscape, practice and experience
Tuesday 4 November, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Trish Green, Research Associate, Centre for Health and Population Studies, Hull York Medical School
This talk is based on a three-year research project that was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and will provide some insight into the richness and complexity of natural burial. The past 20 years have seen what must be the most radical change in our burial culture since the introduction of cremation in the late 19th century. To date, however, there has been limited work that examines the many varieties of natural burial sites across the UK. Dr Green’s talk will highlight the different experiences of natural burial site owners and managers, bereaved people, celebrants, clergy and funeral directors.

Places are limited so booking is essential. To book a place or request further details, please call us on 01482 466321/466585 or email us at opencampus@hull.ac.uk
For more information on the OpenCampus Programme visit our website - www.hull.ac.uk/opencampus
Marking the 70th anniversary of Hiroshima
Wednesday 12 November, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Prof Keith Tester, Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences

2015 will mark the 70th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. It remains a highly controversial act. This talk explores the issue of whether the men who dropped the bomb on Hiroshima should feel guilty and, if they should, for what are they guilty? The discussion will draw on debates in social and cultural theory to think through these questions.

Public Reactions to guide dogs and the people they help
Tuesday 18 November, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Ruth Butler, Senior Lecturer in Applied Social Research, School of Social Sciences

There are approximately 5,000 working guide dogs in the UK. They provide their visually impaired owners with increased mobility and independence, self-esteem, emotional support, companionship and have even been shown to improve their physical wellbeing. The success of the dog and human partnerships, however, relies upon public awareness, understanding and acceptance of them. This talk will explore how people’s varying perceptions of “blind” people, dogs and guide dogs can stimulate reactions of affection or sometimes repulsion in others and can affect the help or negative interference that guide dog owners can receive.

Making and unmaking a creative city: Space and culture in Reykjavik
Tuesday 25 November, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Michael S Drake, Lecturer in Sociology, School of Social Sciences

As Hull begins to rebrand itself as City of Culture, with promises of regeneration and development, it is worth looking at a comparable example. Reykjavik was once closely linked with Hull through a common heritage in the fishing industry and now has a comparable-sized population. In 2008-09, the collapse of Iceland’s finance economy threw its future into question. Reykjavik has since successfully rebranded itself as a creative city. Growth and prosperity have returned through the cultural economy and the tourism it has helped to attract. However, the effects of this success may be destroying the conditions of cultural creativity.

Deviancy, destitution and moral degeneracy
Tuesday 2 December, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Simon Green, Senior Lecturer in Community Justice and Criminology, Co-Director of the Centre for Criminology and Criminal Justice, Deputy Director MA Restorative Justice, School of Social Sciences

In recent years our political leaders and newspaper editors have repeatedly told us that crime and disorder is caused by growing moral degeneracy. This is very different from earlier explanations, which were rooted in social and economic destitution. What has led to this change in emphasis and how useful is it for understanding why people behave horribly towards each other? Why do people become criminals and is this different from other types of rule-breaking such as infidelity, obesity or lying? Have we become a less moral society? Or is this just a political soundbite designed to distract us from the frightening possibility that rule-breaking and crime are both exciting and life-affirming in a world where our sense of place, purpose and future are increasingly uncertain and insecure?

The enduring link between alcohol and violence in the UK
Tuesday 9 December, 6.15pm
LT 29, Wilberforce Building, Hull campus
Dr Iain Brennan, Senior Lecturer in Psychology and Criminology, School of Social Sciences

Alcohol consumption serves many positive functions in UK society but it is also associated with violence in the home and in urban centres. This talk will discuss the relationship between alcohol and violence in the UK and present original research on how alcohol-related violence affects UK communities. New techniques for the prevention of alcohol-related violence will be discussed, as well as identifying some under-researched areas that require attention by researchers, practitioners and policymakers in Criminal Justice and Public Health.

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