GRESHAM COLLEGE

Free Public Lectures

Summer 2025

For the Love of Learning, since 1597

The 2024-25 academic year continues at Gresham College, London's oldest institute of higher education. This term we will be providing free lectures on topics ranging from minimalist music to modern pagan witchcraft, limitarianism to the future of livestock in a net zero world.

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 scholars of Gresham College are the people's Professors, every year successfully bringing the latest and most exciting research to a limitless audience, free of charge. Continuing this tradition of education without fees is nevertheless costly and difficult. **It is the wonderful generosity of our donors that allows the College to serve an indefinite future."**

Ronald Hutton, Professor of Divinity

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DON'T MISS...

The Operatic Showstopper: 'You'll Never Walk Alone'

Professor Dominic Broomfield-McHugh explores Rodgers and Hammerstein's most operatic song, recorded by diverse artists, and sung at both the Last Night of the Proms and Liverpool Football Club.

Fri, 2 May 2025 • 7pm • Conway Hall / Live Online

The Troubled Brain: Ageing and Dementia

The underlying mechanisms of diseases such as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's are poorly understood. Professor Alain Goriely shows how mathematical modelling can be used to predict dementia's progression by unravelling some of its universal features.

Tue, 13 May 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

The Moral Case for Stealing Data

IT has given us new means to obtain data that others may wish to protect or even conceal. To some, hackers are heroes. To others, they are criminals. Professor Victoria Baines asks, who decides if data thieves are to be protected or prosecuted?

Tue, 20 May 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

PLUS...

Lawgivers in Modern Revolutions

Professor Melissa Lane considers lawgivers and their roles in revolutions, including seventeenth-century Britain, eighteenth-century France and (what would become) the United States, and twentieth-century Iran.

Thu, 05 Jun 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

The Future of Immunity

Exploring our radical understanding of the human immune system today including monoclonal antibodies, T-cell therapies, anti-cancer vaccines and precision immune suppression. Professor Robin May asks, what will we discover next?

Wed, 11 Jun 2025 • 6pm • Barnard's Inn Hall / Live Online

Illuminating the Dark Side of the Moon

Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon remains the perfect example of a concept album - blending cyclical forms, jazz and modal harmony, experimental electronics, multi-layered guitars, and haunting lyrics. Professor Milton Mermikides examines its success and enduring influence.

Thu, 12 Jun 2025 • 7.30pm • Rich Mix / Live Online

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

REGISTER FOR 2025 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, plus 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 other central London venues are also used. Please check our website for more detail 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 SUMMER 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.

23 April **Asteroid Adventures**
Chris Lintott • 7pm • Conway Hall

24 April **Why Are Cities Going Bankrupt?** Martin Daunton

29 April **Does Net Zero Mean the End of Livestock Agriculture?** Myles Allen

30 April **Shanawdithit: A Woman at the End of the World**
Julia Laite

01 May **From Thin Air: Minimalist and Process Music from Africa to Arvo Pärt**
Milton Mermikides • 7.30pm • Rich Mix

02 May **The Operatic Showstopper: 'You'll Never Walk Alone'**
Dominic Broomfield-McHugh • 7pm • Conway Hall

07 May **Do Computers Get Sick? How Humans and Computers Fight Viruses** Robin May

13 May **The Troubled Brain: Ageing and Dementia**
Alain Goriely

14 May **Modern Pagan Witchcraft** Ronald Hutton

15 May **Oil, Decolonisation, and the Future of the Climate Emergency** Adam Hanieh

20 May **The Moral Case for Stealing Data** Victoria Baines

22 May **Taking the Constitution into the Classroom**
Clive Stafford Smith

28 May **A New Sky**
Chris Lintott • 7pm • Conway Hall

29 May **From Machiavelli to Nietzsche: How Modern Thinkers Saw Ancient Lawgivers** Melissa Lane

02 June **Blind Spots & Bad Decisions: Why We Fall for Financial Traps** Raghavendra Rau

04 June **Sum Stories: Equations and their Origins**
Robin Wilson

05 June **Lawgivers in Modern Revolutions** Melissa Lane

09 June **The Gray's Inn Reading 2025** Howard Morrison

10 June **Carbon Takeback: How We Will Stop Fossil Fuels from Causing Global Warming** Myles Allen

11 June **The Future of Immunity** Robin May

12 June **Illuminating the Dark Side of the Moon**
Milton Mermikides • 7.30pm • Rich Mix

16 June **Outsmart the System: How Psychology Hacks Your Money Decisions** Raghavendra Rau

17 June **The Deceived Brain: Coding and Illusion**
Alain Goriely

20 June **Gresham Festival of Musical Ideas**
Milton Mermikides • Robin May • Melissa Lane
Sarah Hart • Victoria Baines • Chris Lintott
From 1pm

23 June **Limitarianism and Capitalism**
Ingrid Robeyns • 7pm • Conway Hall

TIME TO THINK

www.gresham.ac.uk

EST. 1597

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