

SciSoc

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY
SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

EVENTS MICHAELMAS 2009

Please check www.scisoc.com for last minute changes and further information.

VENUE: The Pharmacology Lecture Theatre on Tennis Court Road is the venue for all SciSoc talks unless stated otherwise. Please see www.scisoc.com for directions.

WEEK 2

TUE 20 OCT 8.00PM

Prof Marcus du Sautoy

FINDING MOONSHINE From symmetry in music to the discovery of the monster that inhabits 196,883-dimensional space, Prof du Sautoy takes us on an entertaining tour through symmetry in modern mathematics—meeting the pioneers of the subject, and telling their stories along the way. *Free champagne reception afterwards courtesy of Big Fish Enterprises. Venue: Bristol-Myers Squibb Lecture Theatre, Department of Chemistry, Lensfield Road*

WEEK 4

FRI 30 OCT 8.00PM

Prof Sir David King

21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES With oil reserves running low and climate change on the horizon, what solutions does science have to offer to tackle the biggest challenges we'll face this century? Sir David King, former scientific advisor to the UK government, analyses the current technology and what further developments are needed to preserve our way of life. *Joint event with the Cambridge Union Society. Venue: Union Society Building, 9a Bridge Street*

WEEK 4

TUE 3 NOV 8.00PM

Prof John Beddington

TITLE TO BE ANNOUNCED John Beddington, current chief scientific advisor to the UK government and population biologist, will lecture on the economics and biology of sustainable resource management.

Joint event with the Cambridge Union Society. Venue: Union Society Building, 9a Bridge Street

WEEK 5

TUE 10 NOV 8.00PM

Dr Hugh Hunt

THE SCIENCE OF SPINNING THINGS How do we manage to stay up on a bike? What does this have to do with astronomy, aviation, or even particle physics? In some way or the other, all involve spinning things and thus share similar physics. Dr Hugh Hunt brings the topic alive with demonstrations involving boomerangs, gyroscopes and bicycle wheels.

WEEK 6

TUE 17 NOV 8.00PM

Prof Rupert Sheldrake

MORPHIC RESONANCE, COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND THE HABITS OF NATURE Professor Sheldrake talks on his hypothesis of formative causation, whereby self-organizing systems such as crystals, plants and animals tune into a collective memory, provided by "morphic resonance" from previously existing, similar systems. Look forward to a stimulating discussion after the lecture!

WEEK 7

TUE 24 NOV 8.00PM

Prof Anthony Hollander

CLAUDIA'S TRACHEA AND OTHER STEM CELL STORIES With demand for transplantable organs far exceeding supply and an aging global population, the science of bio-engineering organs has never been more relevant. Professor Hollander, who helped to create the first tissue-engineered trachea, explains how transplant rejection and scarcity is being overcome by creating organs using the patients' own stem cells.

WEEK 8

TUE 1 DEC 8.00PM

Prof David Colquhoun

SCIENCE IN AN AGE OF ENDARKENMENT Some Examples from Scientific Fraud, Quackery, Religion and University Politics: Acupuncture and degrees in Chinese Herbal medicine or management speak are just a few on Professor Colquhoun's long list of problems with how science is being sidelined in the media and everyday life. From your newspaper to the NHS itself—how we can rid the world of bad science?

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