

EDMUND'S OPEN LECTURE SERIES

UPCOMING TALKS 26/27

Inspirational free talks. Open to everyone.

The series runs from October to June covering a host of fascinating topics across history, English, psychology, criminology, sociology and more.

**University & Professional Development Centre
73 Western Way, Bury Saint Edmunds IP33 3SP**

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EVENING AND SATURDAY LECTURES

Martyn Taylor

BURY ST EDMUNDS THROUGH TIME RE-VISITED

Thursday 15 Oct 5.45pm-7pm

This illustrated talk revisits the changing face of Bury St Edmunds, comparing familiar locations as they were then and as they are now. While the town's buildings and streetscapes may appear little changed, the lives, stories and communities within them have evolved over time, offering a fascinating glimpse into local history.

Professor Malcolm Gaskill in conversation with Daniel Connor.

WORLDS OF FEAR AND WONDER: LIVING WITH THE SUPERNATURAL, PAST AND PRESENT

Thursday 5 Nov 5.45pm-7pm

In this conversation, Malcolm Gaskill explores how people have used the supernatural to make sense of the world, from miracles and alchemy to witch hunts, spirits and encounters with the dead. Through a series of vivid and interconnected stories, the lecture opens a fresh perspective on our haunted past, asking not only what people believed, but what they felt. From uncanny encounters and vampire graves to the battlefields of the First World War, this event searches hearts as well as minds to uncover the forgotten realities of earlier lives.

Associate Professor, Stuart Agnew

IF YOU DO THE CRIME, YOU SHOULD DO THE TIME!

Saturday 14 Nov 12.30pm-1.30pm

With prisoner numbers at record highs and prisons under intense pressure, this lecture explores the growth of the prison population in England and Wales. Drawing on criminological evidence, Stuart Agnew considers the reasons behind this expansion and the challenges it creates for the state, the justice system and the wider public. The talk asks how society should respond to the latest prison crisis, and what it reveals about crime, punishment and public policy today.

Dr Barbara Wilson

THE HISTORY OF BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION

Thursday 19 Nov 5.45pm-7pm

This lecture traces the history of brain injury rehabilitation from Ancient Egypt to the present day. It begins with the Ancient Egyptians' remarkable descriptions of severe brain injury, including the first known use of the word "brain" in any language, before moving through key developments in treatment and rehabilitation. The talk explores significant figures including Broca, Kurt Goldstein, Luria, Oliver Zangwill, Diller, Ben-Yishay and Prigatano, and considers why war has so often acted as a catalyst for advances in rehabilitation. It also highlights the international and collaborative nature of progress in this important field.

Dr. Lesley Crawley, in conversation
with Dr. Dan Neale

FORGIVENESS: A PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC AND BENEDICTINE PERSPECTIVE.

Thursday 3 Dec 5.45pm-7pm

Forgiveness is widely encouraged but often poorly understood. In this evening talk, a group analyst and a psychotherapist who is also an ordained priest will explore forgiveness from both clinical practice and the Benedictine tradition, considering its relationship to human woundedness, responsibility, and change. Together, they will reflect on what forgiveness is, what it is not, and how psychological insight and spiritual wisdom can deepen our understanding of hurt, resentment, and reconciliation. The evening will be of interest to anyone curious about the intersection of psychotherapy, spirituality, and human relationships.

Dr Andrew Fagan

IS SOCIAL LIBERALISM DEAD?

Thursday 17 Dec 5.45pm-7pm

The political life of many liberal democracies is increasingly confusing and disturbing. Illiberal and authoritarian political parties and figures increasingly benefit from wider illiberal attitudes and beliefs amongst parts of the electorate and wider society. Does this signal the end of social liberalism? What is (or was) social liberalism and, if it is dead, should we mourn its passing? If it isn't yet entirely dead, should we try and revive it?

Aidan Gallagher

500 YEARS OF THE GUITAR AND ITS MUSIC

Thursday 14 Jan 5.45pm-7pm

Join Aidan Gallagher for an evening exploring 500 years of the classical guitar and its music. This lecture traces the history of the instrument, the composers who shaped its repertoire, and the innovations in guitar design that transformed both its sound and status. Along the way, it considers how the guitar and its related instruments became increasingly popular and influential across different musical periods.

WHAT OUR GUESTS HAVE TO SAY:

"A fascinating range of subjects and a wide variety of topics. Such a privilege to be able to take part and learn. An extremely valuable and enjoyable resource."

Alan Ridealgh

HOW TO START A BREWERY

Thursday 28 Jan 5.45pm-7pm

This lecture tells the story of the formation and development of Humber Doucy Brewing Company Ltd, from the thinking behind the original idea to the first brew in May 2019. Alan Ridealgh reflects on the lessons learned along the way, including the impact of Covid just nine months later, and how these experiences helped shape the direction, growth and development of the business.

Robert Halliday

AN A TO Z OF BENCH END FIGURES IN SUFFOLK CHURCHES

Thursday 4 Feb 5.45pm-7pm

Suffolk's historic churches are home to many unusual and intriguing objects, including bench end figures: wooden carvings of legendary monsters, birds, animals and people engaged in everyday activities. An A to Z selection of medieval and modern bench end figures is presented, revealing the stories they tell and the creativity, humour and symbolism carved into Suffolk's church interiors.

Adrian Tindall

BURY ST EDMUNDS ATHENAEUM: 'AN ELEGANT STRUCTURE AND ITS PERSONS OF QUALITY'

Thursday 11 Feb 5.45pm-7pm

This illustrated talk explores the rich history of Bury St Edmunds Athenaeum, from its origins as a Georgian Assembly

House to its later life as a World War II Services Club. Over more than three centuries, the building has been a place of leisure, culture and social gathering, associated with figures including Charles Dickens, Jenny Lind, Oscar Wilde and Bob Marley. The lecture tells the story of the building and the colourful personalities who shaped, inhabited and enlivened it.

Dr. Dan Neale, in conversation with Dr. Lesley Crawley.

THE UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF COMPLEX SYSTEMS: PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC HEALTH AND UNHEALTH IN GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS.

Thursday 25 Feb 5.45pm-7pm

We are constantly surprised by the ways that systems behave, and in particular the unintended consequences that so frequently arise when we attempt to intervene. In this talk, Dan will provide many examples of how our usual, Western, "linear" thinking can easily come adrift and our actions end up causing more or worse problems than the ones we were trying to solve. This talk will be of interest to anyone who does not live as a hermit.

Dr Ryan Clarke

RESEARCHING ABROAD: REFLECTIONS ON FIELDWORK IN ZIMBABWE

Thursday 4 March 5.45pm-7pm

Set against the backdrop of political change following Mugabe's downfall, election violence, state monitoring, power cuts, hyperinflation and fuel shortages, this lecture reflects on the

challenges of conducting research in a hostile and repressive environment. It also considers the stark contrasts Ryan encountered between privilege and poverty, and what these experiences revealed about researching difficult histories on the ground.

Molly Housego

BOUDICAN REVOLT AND THE LATE IRON AGE

Thursday 15 April 5.45pm-7pm

The Boudican Revolt of 60/61 CE remains one of the most fascinating and enigmatic episodes in this island's history. This lecture asks what we really know about Boudica, her culture and the world in which she lived. Drawing on historical, archaeological and cultural evidence, Molly Housego will challenge myths, correct misinformation and build a clearer picture of the Late Iron Age. Join this colourful, lively and surprising journey into the world of one of history's most compelling figures.

Dr Julia Firmin

A WORLD UNMADE: LITERATURE AND THE CRISIS OF MEANING

Thursday 6 May 5.45pm-7pm

This lecture explores literature shaped by disillusionment, disorientation and dread, asking whether a world marked by rupture and uncertainty feels familiar today. Focusing on the Lost Generation's response to the aftermath of the First World War, it makes timely connections with the anxieties of our own historical moment. Through literature, the talk considers whether meaning can be rebuilt after crisis and whether a happy ending is ever truly possible.

Dr Jerome Gasson

MEDIEVAL AUDITORS AND THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

Thursday 20 May 5.45pm-7pm

Could you have cheated the system in fourteenth-century England? This lecture uncovers the hidden world of dishonest medieval farm managers and the specialist auditors trained to expose them. Through detailed accounts and unexpected discoveries, Jerome Gasson reveals how these officials worked, why corruption was so difficult to detect, and why the auditors did not always have the last laugh.

Dan Clarke

MURDERERS DISPLAYED: IN THE GIBBET CAGE AND AT SHIRE HALL

Thursday 10 June 5.45pm-7pm

This lecture explores the unsettling history of the gibbet cage and the public display of criminal corpses during the period of the Bloody Code. Using the case studies of John Nichols and William Corder, Dan Clarke examines the different purposes, meanings and mentalities behind these macabre exhibitions, and considers why such practices developed and endured. Please note: this talk contains themes that some attendees may find disturbing and is recommended for adults aged 18+.



DAY LECTURES WITH ROBIN HERNE

LOSS OF THE REAL

Tuesday 6 Oct 10am-11.30am

Exploring Baudrillard's philosophy of hyperreality and how life in a media-saturated era operates. What are the psychological and social consequences of living in a time of deep fakes, AI, and practically everyone living through a screen?

SPLITTING MINDS

Tuesday 20 Oct 10am-11.30am

A history of schizophrenia and the changing psychological research. How has understanding changed and how is it likely to develop in the future?

MAKING MONSTERS

Tuesday 3 Nov 10am-11.45am

From Stoker's Dracula to Shelley's Frankenstein and Stevenson's Mr Hyde, the Gothic genre has been fascinated with the creation of the monstrous. What social forces shaped this obsession, what does it tell us about the human psyche both then and now.

LEARNING TO LOVE

Tuesday 17 Nov 10am-11.30am

A sociological view of friendship from Ancient Greece through to the internet age. Notions of friendship will be compared between different cultures and comparisons from male and female stances.

DEVIL IN THE DETAIL

Tuesday 1 Dec 10am-11.45am

A walk on the dark side of the human psyche as we explore Carl Jung's concept of the Shadow Archetype and his understanding of corrupted and twisted psyches. Do his theories offer insights for therapists or criminologists who deal with the dangerous and deadly?

CRIME CONFERENCE

Wednesday 9 Dec 10am-3.30pm

A day of talks from various people on the criminal justice system from sociological, criminological, psychological, and procedural angles. Details of speakers to be confirmed in due course.

CAGED FIGHTERS

Wednesday 3 Feb 2pm-3.30pm

Wollstonecraft, Weber and others have used the metaphor of life in a cage to call for social change and liberation. We explore those ideas, how they interlink and spill into sociology, psychology, politics, and more.

MIND OVER MATTER

Wednesday 24 Feb 2.15pm-3.30pm

A psychological and philosophical exploration of ideas about the relationship between the mind and body. Are we just organic machines or does the mind operate the body like a driver in a car?

MUSHROOMS IN MIND

Wednesday 3 Mar 2pm-3.30pm

Exploring the psychology of entheogen usage and what this poses for our understanding of reality, religion, and mental illness.

TROPHY HUNTERS

Friday 12 Mar 2pm-3.30pm

Criminologists have long noted that some serial criminals, homicidal and otherwise, have a compulsion to collect trophies from their victims. Sometimes jewellery or other personal items, sometimes body parts! Using real cases to illustrate, we will look at theories around why they do it.

FROM HERE TO ETERNITY

Friday 16 April 2pm-3.30pm

A psycho-social exploration of the transhumanist movement and its ambitions to merge humans with digital technology, eventually uploading minds to the cloud. Is it viable? Where might it lead? What could we gain? What might we lose?

JUNGAN SYMPOSIUM V

Tuesday 18 May 10am-3.30pm

A day of talks from assorted speakers examining the ideas of psychologist Carl Jung and the other psychologists and philosophers who have followed him. Details of speakers will be confirmed via Eventbrite.

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