



Calendar for March/April 2023

15 March

Wednesday,

7.30pm

Chaired by:

Tony Burton

What can birds tell us about how to age slowly?

Professor Pat Monaghan

Pat is the Regius Professor of Zoology at the University of Glasgow and has worked for many years on the biology of animal ageing, including species and lifestyle differences, and environmental effects. Pat particularly works with birds, and in this talk she will tell us about remarkable features of the biology of birds which makes them of great interest in understanding variation in the rate of ageing.

This is a change to our advertised programme as the train operators strike on 16th March has severely impacted the travel of our speaker scheduled for the 15th March and so we have to postpone his talk to a later date.

22 March

The British Academy Lecture - scheduled for the 22 March has been postponed by the British Academy due to industrial disputes and will be rescheduled, hopefully in April.

5 April

Wednesday,

7.30pm

Chaired by:

Professor Felicity

Huntingford

From beast machines to dreamachines

Professor Anil Seth

*Anil Seth is Professor of Cognitive and Computational Neuroscience at the University of Sussex and author of the bestselling book *Being You: A New Science of Consciousness*. His research brings together many different disciplines, from neuroscience to philosophy to computer science to physics, to explore the biological basis of consciousness and the implications of this research for medicine, technology, and society.*

Consciousness remains one of the central mysteries in science and philosophy. In this talk, I will explore how viewing the brain as a 'prediction machine' can help build bridges from neural mechanisms to properties of conscious experience – dissolving, not solving, the so-called hard problem of consciousness. I will first show how conscious experiences of the world around us can be understood in terms of perceptual predictions, before exploring how the experience of being an embodied self can be understood in terms of predictive regulation of the body. In this view, and contrary to the old doctrine of Descartes, we are conscious because we are 'beast machines'. I'll finish by describing a recent art-science collaboration – the dreamachine – which involves mass stroboscopically-induced visual hallucinations and a large-scale online survey of 'perceptual diversity' – The Perception Census.

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre 201, Sir Charles Wilson Building,
University of Glasgow, 1 University Avenue, Glasgow G12 8QQ.**

Visitors Welcome - recommended donation £3

Members' York Trip 2023 - Monday 3rd to Thursday 6 April 2023 – Staying at the Bar Convent, York.

There are still places available on this trip for those requiring twin or double accommodation.

Because of the accommodation available at the Bar Convent we are able to offer places for couples, and if any member has already requested a place and would like a partner to join them we can accommodate this change.

If you are interested please email info@royalphil.org