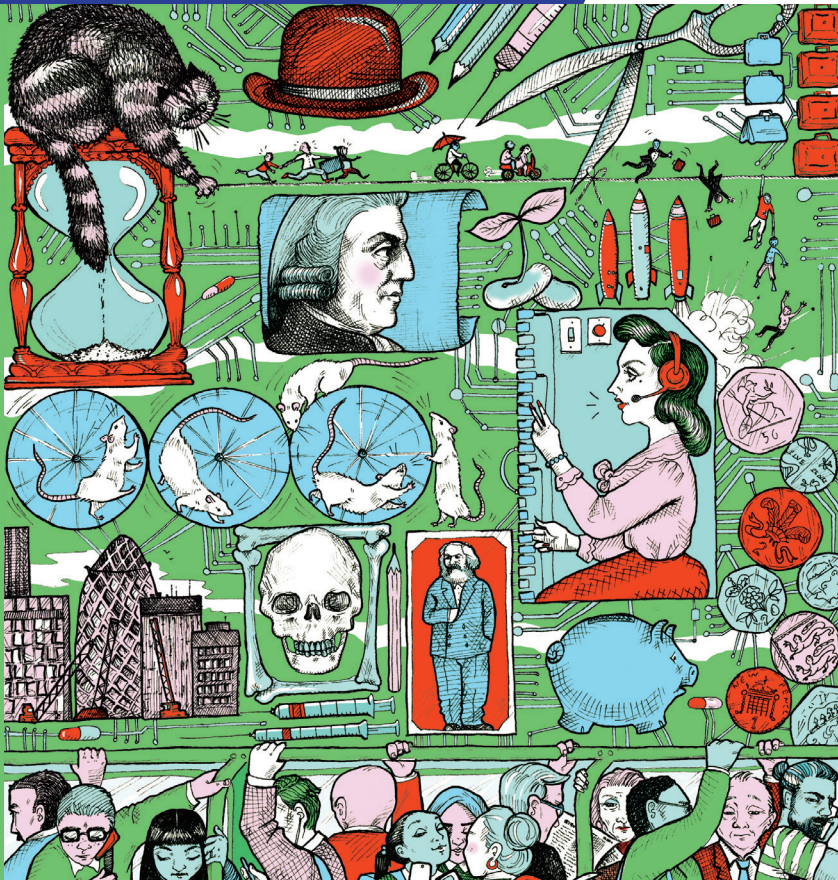


Bristol Festival of Ideas /

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www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Festival of Economics 2016



Tuesday 15 November - Saturday 19 November 2016, At-Bristol



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TheObserver



In our fifth Festival of Economics, programmed by Diane Coyle (University of Manchester and Enlightenment Economics), economists and other experts will be debating with each other – and their audiences – some of the key economic questions of our time. All Festival of Economics events take place in At-Bristol.

This year's festival begins with Mariana Mazzucato examining new ideas from the world's leading economists, and continues with discussions on basic income, happiness, crime and much more. We are delighted to welcome Dani Rodrik, who takes a close look at when economics falls short and when it works, and Tim Harford, who explores the benefits of messiness in our lives.



Diane Coyle (Alex Sedgwick)

Mariana Mazzucato: Rethinking Capitalism

Tue 15 Nov 2016, 18:30-19:30, At-Bristol

£7 / £6

Western capitalism is in crisis. For decades investment has been falling, living standards have stagnated or declined, and inequality has risen dramatically. Economic policy has failed to reform the financial system, restore stable growth or face up to the challenges posed by climate change. Mariana Mazzucato examines new ideas from some of the world's leading economists which challenge mainstream economic debate.

Thursday 17 November 2016/

12:30-13:45

Basic Income: An Idea Whose Time Has Come?

£7 / £6

Chair: Jonathan Derbyshire
Torsten Bell (Resolution Foundation)
Louise Haagh (University of York)
Anthony Painter (RSA)
Nick Pearce (University of Bath Institute for Policy Research)

Should the government give everybody in the country a minimum income, regardless of their circumstances? Advocates of a basic income argue that it would be a simple way to help very poor people and would not penalise them when they get work, in contrast to current benefit systems. It would also help society to adjust to the widely-anticipated effect of automation on jobs. Critics say it would be unaffordable at any meaningful level. Is this an idea whose time has come?

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18:30-19:30

Keynote Address: Dani Rodrik **£9 / £7**

In the aftermath of the global financial crisis, economics seems anything but a science. Dani Rodrik, Professor of International Political Economy at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, takes a close look at economics to examine when it falls short and when it works. He argues that it can be a powerful tool to improve the world – but only when economists abandon universal theories and focus on getting the context right. Using the right model at the right time can deliver valuable new insights about social reality and public policy.

In association with



20:00-21:30

Should the Government Aim to Make Us Happy?

£9 / £7

Chair: Chris Giles
Will Davies (Goldsmiths)
Susan Harkness (University of Bath)
Nattavudh Powdthavee (Warwick Business School)
Dani Rodrik (Harvard Kennedy School)

Should government policy focus on our happiness rather than economic growth and incomes? Some economists think so, arguing that past a certain living standard, happiness does not increase one for one with incomes. But when happiness depends on highly personal factors such as relationships and religion, and when people can be perfectly happy on low incomes, do we really want it to be the measure of government policy?



12:30-13:45

People, Politics and Policy: Improving the Economic Policy Process

£7 / £6

Chair: Sarah Smith
Carol Graham (Brookings Institute)
Adam Lent (Ashoka)
Paul Ormerod (Volterra)
Emily Skarbek (King's College London)

How can economic policies be made more effective in a world where populism rules and 'evidence-based' policy is out of favour; where complex global links and digital technology mean no government can control their own nation's destiny; and where economics itself is under challenge? Economists have been urged to show more humility about the limits of their knowledge. So what do we know and how can that knowledge be translated into effective policies?

18:30-19:30

Tim Harford: The Merits of Messiness

£9 / £7

Tim Harford explores the benefits of having messiness in our lives: why it's important, why we resist it and why we should embrace it instead. Using research from neuroscience, psychology and social science, he explains that the human qualities we value – creativity, responsiveness, resilience – are integral to the disorder, confusion and disarray that produce them. Messiness lies at the core of how we innovate, how we achieve, how we reach each other – in short, how we succeed.

In association with



20:00-21:30

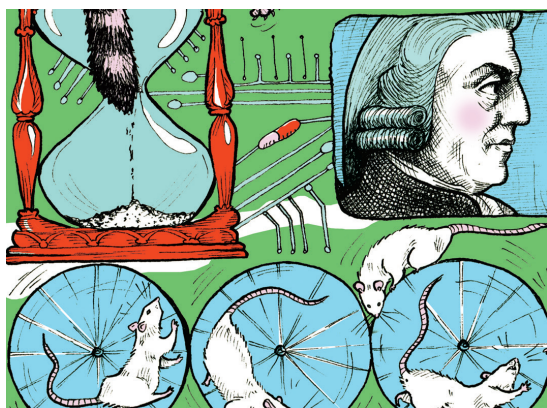
We're All Doomed (Again): What Could Go Wrong in the Global Economy?

£9 / £7

Chair: Ed Conway
Jagjit Chadha (NIESR)
Michelle Cini (University of Bristol)
Swati Dhingra (LSE)
Linda Yueh (Oxford University)

As 2008 fades into history, the global economy still looks frail. Monetary policy is still 'unconventional'. China keeps threatening to have a debt crisis. Greece might not meet the terms of its bailout. The UK has voted for Brexit. The banks might still be able to bring the economic system to its knees. And the capacity of global authorities to respond to a new crisis, from Ebola and Zika to financial collapse, seems doubtful. Is there anything that can be done to avert the worst outcomes?

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11:00-12:30

Is Innovation Really Good For Us?

£9 / £7

Chair: Rory Cellan-Jones

Diane Coyle (University of Manchester)

Jonathan Haskel (Imperial College London)

Helen Simpson (University of Bristol)

Stian Westlake (Nesta)

Innovation is the economic buzzword of the moment but is it all it's cracked up to be? Productivity is flat-lining everywhere. Some economists think all the important innovations happened long ago. The latest ones seem more like toys for the wealthy or could destroy millions of jobs if the worst fears are realised. So why is innovation considered to be a good thing?

13:30-15:00

Why Crime Pays: The Economics of Organised Crime

£9 / £7

Chair: Tom Gash

Nadia Campaniello (University of Essex)

Mirko Draca (University of Warwick)

David Skarbek (King's College London)

Federico Varese (Oxford University)

The significance of crime as an economic activity is often underestimated. Organised crime is big business, and the tools of economics can help in tackling the problems crime causes, from gang violence to drug abuse to people trafficking. In fact, without the economics, policies on crime will probably fail. What advice would economists give about issues such as legalising drugs or sending more culprits to prison?

16:00-17:30

Family is Destiny: Are We at the End of Social Mobility and Did It Exist at All?

£9 / £7

Chair: Margaret Heffernan

Simon Burgess (University of Bristol)

Paul Johnson (Institute for Fiscal Studies)

Abigail McKnight (LSE)

Kimberley Scharf (University of Warwick)

Is the era of social mobility and meritocracy over – assuming it was ever real? With Old Etonians commanding top acting roles (as well as political ones), private school looking like a passport to success for almost all the seven per cent of Britons who attend and many young people only able to buy a home via the bank of mother and father, is there any social mobility? And if not, are there ways to improve the life chances of young people born into less privileged backgrounds?



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Festival of Economics season ticket/

Buy a season ticket for ALL events at £60 / £45. This can be purchased online or in person. Individual ticket prices are listed against each event.

Booking and venue information/

Go to www.ideasfestival.co.uk/whats-on for list of individual events with links to online booking and full terms and conditions. All online booking managed by Festival of Ideas.

To book in person: At-Bristol, Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5DB

Tel: 0117 915 1000 (local rate call), 9:00-17:00 weekdays

www.at-bristol.org.uk

Bristol Festival of Ideas/

Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate debate and discussion for all. Established in 2005, the year-round festival covers a wide range of topics and welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, novelists and commentators on all subjects.

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership:



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