

# Bristol Festival of Ideas /

Bristol**800**

In association with

**TheObserver**



 @FestivalofIdeas

[www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

April, May and June 2016



Frankenstein, Utopia and more...

## Bristol Festival of Ideas/

April, May and June 2016

We're now in the twelfth year of the Bristol Festival of Ideas. We've grown from running 30 events in our first year to a year-round programme addressing issues critical to the future of the city and its people, and encouraging world-class experts from Bristol and elsewhere to join the public debate.

We continue this in 2016. In May we're looking at health; wildlife; the Holocaust; social mobility; the future of newspapers; feminism; science and philosophy of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and what they offer now; the legacy of Tony Blair and the future of the Left; autism; freedom of expression; economics; and economic behaviour and austerity in Europe, among many other topics. We're delighted to also launch the first annual lecture celebrating the life and work of the great critic Philip French in the city that started him on his lifelong journey in film.

Our 2016 programme also includes our Bristol800 Weekenders. In April we examine the science and culture of *Frankenstein* and in April and May we look at the history, future and feasibility of utopias and utopian thinking, in a programme that includes the first four of our second series of Coleridge Lectures. There's more to come later in the year in Bristol800 too.

Last year we were part of European Green Capital and ran many projects, including our largest ever event, the Festival of the Future City. We'll continue to develop these specialist festivals – and the Festival of the Future City will be back in 2017 – as well as our overall programme of marking, commemorating and celebrating the life and work, past, present and future, of this remarkable city and its place in the world. As ever we could not do this without the support of our partners – Arts Council England, Bristol City Council, Business West, University of Bristol and University of the West of England; all the publishers we work with; and most of all our audiences, speakers and participants. Thank you all.

**Andrew Kelly**  
Director

## Frankenstein Weekender/

Fri 22 and Sat 23 April 2016

Mary Shelley – then Mary Godwin – was living in Clifton in Bristol in 1815. One biographer suggests the idea for *Frankenstein* may have come from her time in the city when she learned about the impact of the slave trade.

For Bristol800 we're celebrating Mary Shelley and *Frankenstein* with a new play; talks, debates and lectures about Shelley and her work; a look at *Frankenstein* on film; and a debate on the science and ethics of *Frankenstein*.

As part of the *Frankenstein* Weekender six poets have each been commissioned to write a new poem on the theme of Shelley's novel. The poets are John Burnside, Kathleen Jamie, Vanessa Kisuule, Helen Mort, Fiona Sampson and Adam Thorpe. The poems will be read by the poets for the first time throughout the Weekender at different events. Please check the event listings online to see which poet will be performing when.



Illustration: Frankenstein's Monster by Alys Jones



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**Steve Jones**  
**Revolutionary Science in the Age of the Guillotine**

**Fri 22 April 2016, 12:30-13:30**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

Paris at the time of the French Revolution was the world capital of science. Its scholars laid the foundations of today's physics, chemistry and biology and were revolutionaries. In the century around 1789 Paris saw the first lightning conductor, the first flight, the first estimate of the speed of light and the invention of the tin can and the stethoscope. Steve Jones takes a sideways look at the history of science in Paris, the City of Light.

**Richard Holmes**  
**My Hideous Progeny: Mary Shelley and the Birth of Frankenstein**

**Fri 22 April 2016, 18:30-19:30**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

In this special lecture, Richard Holmes, award-winning author of *The Age of Wonder*, takes us beyond that now famous stormy evening of story-telling with Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron on Lake Geneva to examine the research, writing and bold narrative that went into the highly complex novel of ideas: *Frankenstein*. Supported by Royal Literary Fund.



Julian Rhind-Tutt (by Primoz Korosec)

**Frankenstein: The Play**

**Fri 22 April 2016, 20:00-21:15**

**Sat 23 April 2016, 15:00-16:15**

**and 19:00-20:15**

**The New Room,  
The Horsefair, Bristol**

**£15 / £13 / £10**

Three performances of our specially commissioned play adapted from Mary Shelley's novel, *Frankenstein*, performed in the atmospheric, candle-lit John Wesley's Chapel, The New Room. Starring Julian Rhind-Tutt as Frankenstein with a supporting cast of Bristol Old Vic Theatre School students. Adaption by Sara Davies, musical director Sally Davies, staged and directed by Marilyn Imrie. Casting is subject to availability.

**Animating the Inanimate: Automation and Frankenstein**

**Fri 22 April 2016, 20:00-21:30**

**Watershed**

**Free, but booking required**



*Frankenstein* was published during a time of significant technological possibility. With such advancements came cultural upheaval and concern. The very essence of life was called into question. A panel investigates the cultural implications of *Frankenstein* and explores the novel's ongoing relevance to contemporary concerns around technology and the embodied self. With Emily Blewitt, Teresa Heffernan, Marie Mulvey-Roberts and Jennifer Whitney.

**Andrew Kelly**  
**Frankenstein on Film**

**Sat 23 April 2016, 10:30-11:30**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

Frankenstein and his monster have featured in many films including classics such as *Frankenstein* (1931) and *The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935). Cinema historian (and director of Bristol Festival of Ideas) Andrew Kelly takes us on a journey through *Frankenstein* on film with clips and comparisons with Mary Shelley's great work.

**Mary Shelley: The Writer**

**Sat 23 April 2016, 12:00-13:30**

**Watershed**

**£8 / £7**

Mary Shelley is known worldwide for *Frankenstein* but she wrote and published much more. Our panel explores the Shelley outside of *Frankenstein* and debates her continuing impact. With poet and memoir writer John Burnside, Sara Davies, Daisy Hay, author of *Young Romantics: The Shelleys, Byron and Other Tangled Lives*, and poet and biographer Fiona Sampson, whose *On the White Plain: The Search for Mary Shelley* will be published in 2017.

**Charles Foster**  
**Being a Beast**

**Sat 23 April 2016, 14:00-15:00**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

The creature that Frankenstein created was a monster, a beast. Charles Foster wanted to know what it was like to be a beast and spent weeks living as a badger, an otter, a deer, a fox and a swift. He provides an intimate look at the life of animals, bringing together neuroscience, psychology, nature writing, memoir and wonderful moments of humour and joy.

**The Science and Ethics of Frankenstein**

**Sat 23 April 2016, 16:00-17:30**

**Watershed**

**£8 / £7**

The term 'Frankenstein technology' is used often for changes that affect life. Most can be dismissed but talk of potential head transplants, puppy cloning and IVF, among many other examples of recent years and months, shows that life can be extended and even created. Such experimentation is justified on the grounds of embracing life and people, relieving humankind of the burden of disease. A distinguished panel of scientists discusses the issues.



## Utopia: Coleridge Lectures and Weekender/

April and May 2016

Utopia as a place, or a state of things, where perfection exists – no war, hunger, unhappiness – has been a dream of many for centuries for good and bad: Thomas More in his classic book (500 years old in 2016); the Romantics, who wanted to create a utopia in Pennsylvania; the twentieth-century political utopias that led to ruin and disaster....

But can a perfect world exist? What can we take from past utopian thinking to promote positive change now? In a series of workshops, lectures and debates – including the reading of specially commissioned prose and poems – we examine utopias through history; communist utopias; utopia and women; the American dream as a utopia; Coleridge's utopia in 'Kubla Khan'; the practical aspects of utopian thinking; and the building of utopia in Bristol.

Part of Bristol800: a programme throughout 2016 marking significant anniversaries in the city and what they mean for Bristol now and into the future.

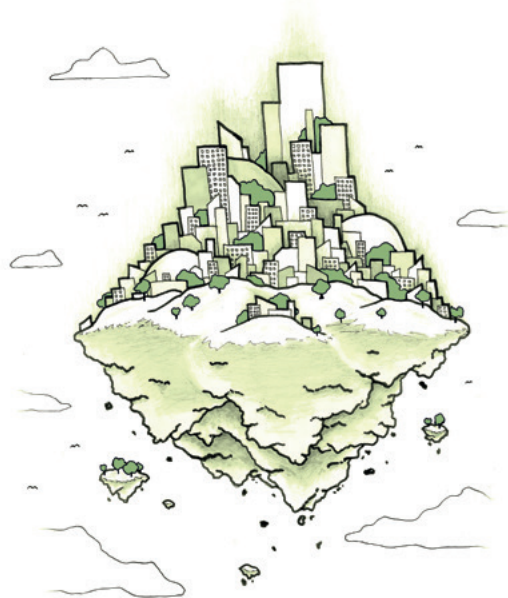


Illustration: Utopia by Cai Burton



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## Coleridge Lectures 2016: Utopia/

In 1795 Samuel Taylor Coleridge gave a series of radical lectures in Bristol which questioned religion, attacked the slave trade, condemned the war with France and criticised taxation. They promoted wide debate and were censured by the city's merchants. Our second series of the Festival of Ideas Coleridge Lectures celebrates the 500th anniversary of Thomas More's influential text: *Utopia*.

All events in this series are free of charge and take place at the University of Bristol. Places must be booked via the event page at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk) where the venue will also be listed. Booking opens six weeks before each lecture.

**Ruth Levitas**  
**On Utopias**

Thu 14 April 2016, 18:30-19:45

Free, but booking required

Ruth Levitas considers the different meanings of the term 'utopia' and argues that utopia should be understood not as a goal, but as a method of exploration of alternative futures. Such exploration is a pressing necessity today and, given the challenges we face, it might even be said that utopia is the precondition of our survival.

**Margaret Heffernan**  
**More than a Dream: Three  
Feminist Utopians**

Thu 21 April 2016, 18:30-19:45

Free, but booking required

Utopias have been mostly written about by men, but many women have also dreamed of better worlds. Examining the works of Mary Wollstonecraft, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Shulamith Firestone, Margaret Heffernan explores the utopias women have envisaged. She also looks at why our age is so drawn to dystopias, and what women now can offer in utopian thinking.

**Sarah Churchwell**  
**Utopia and the American Dream**

Thu 12 May 2016, 18:30-19:45

Free, but booking required

The idea of utopia has always been part of the American dream – from the first Puritan settlements and the 'city on the hill', through *Walden*, the sixties counterculture and to the conservative utopian dreams of today. Nowhere is this more clear than in *The Great Gatsby*, where each character is searching for their own version of utopia. Sarah Churchwell reflects on *Gatsby*, the American dream and the endless search for utopia.

**David Aaronovitch**  
**Utopia and Twentieth-Century  
Communism**

Thu 19 May 2016, 18:30-19:45

Free, but booking required

What made millions worldwide – and tens of thousands of people in the UK – believe in Communism as a new utopia? Is there anything that can be salvaged from the failure of Communism for the Left now? David Aaronovitch explores these questions and other related issues through the story of his own family and their role in the British Communist Party in the twentieth century.

# Utopia Weekender/

Fri 20 - Sun 22 May 2016

## Contemporary Poets and Utopia

Fri 20 May 2016

19:00 for 19:30-21:30 (with interval)

The bar will be open from 19:00 and during the interval

At-Bristol

£15 / £12

To launch the May 2016 season and the May Bristol800 Weekender – two days debating the practical aspects of creating utopia – the Festival of Ideas commissioned 15 leading poets to each write a new poem on the utopian theme. They present their work tonight, talk about what inspired them and join the debate on creating perfect worlds. Hosted by historian and presenter David Olusoga. The poets and speakers include:

Fleur Adcock  
Dean Atta  
Helen Dunmore  
Anna Houghton  
Matthew Hollis  
Sarah Howe  
Nick Laird  
Tim Liardet  
Andrew McMillan  
Hollie McNish  
Daljit Nagra  
Ruth Padel  
Jo Shapcott  
Michael Symmons Roberts  
Jane Yeh



## Kubla Khan at 200 With Nick Groom, Tim Fulford, Jane Moore and Robin Jarvis Sat 21 May 2016, 11:00-12:30 Watershed Free, but booking required

Coleridge's 'Kubla Khan', first published 200 years ago, is one of the most iconic Romantic poems, and the story of its origin in an opium-fuelled dream is as familiar as the poem itself. Three leading scholars of Romantic literature discuss the meanings of 'Kubla Khan' and explore the poem's enduring significance and value. Chaired by Robin Jarvis, Professor of English Literature, University of the West of England.

Image: Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
(Bristol Reference Library 343)

# Creating Real Utopias in the 21st Century/

How do we create utopia in the twenty-first century? What can past examples of utopian thinking – in Bristol and elsewhere, in reality and on the screen – teach us about utopia now and for the future? Who decides what a good utopia might be? What can technology offer? Does the threat of climate change make new utopias possible?

Creating Real Utopias in the 21st Century is a series of events in association with the University of Bristol's Anticipation Research Group. All events take place at Watershed and are free to attend, but booking is required. Go to the relevant booking page at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

Supported by the AHRC Connected Communities Programme, the University of Bristol Brigstow Institute and the Cabot Institute.



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council



## Utopian Cities Learning from the Ruins Sat 21 May 2016, 10:00-11:30

Charles Burdett, Alex Marsh and Eugene Byrne consider examples of utopian planning from the past – Italian Fascism, the rise of local authority and New Town housing as a response to problems related to urbanisation, and the ideas for post-war Bristol after much of the central part of the city was destroyed in the Blitz – to explore how ideas of the modern had an impact on the imagination and collective practices of different groups.

## Climate Utopias and Dystopias New Ways of Thinking about the Future

Sat 21 May 2016, 12:15-13:45

Climate change may displace upward of 150 million people during the twenty-first century, and floods and droughts will ravage many parts of the world. At the same time, human beings are notoriously unable to consider and plan for the future. But the Paris agreement on climate change has ushered in a new era of willingness to tackle climate change, and new technologies and ways of thinking about the future are emerging. Stephan Lewandowsky, Mike Page and Chris Goodall examine the challenges and the opportunities that await us.

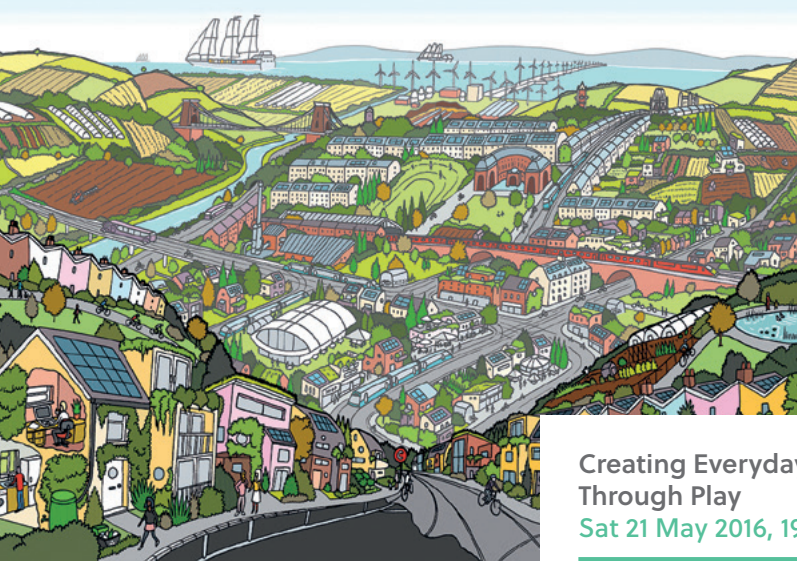


Illustration: Courtesy  
of Andy Council,  
[www.futurebristol.co.uk](http://www.futurebristol.co.uk)

### Making Utopias Workshop Sat 21 May 2016, 14:30-16:00

Who gets to imagine, decide and make our futures? If we are thinking about making utopia – the best possible future – we will only be able to do this when everyone is involved, when the richness of diversity is expressed in the imagining and creation of a better world. This workshop – with Kat Wall, Patricia Gaya and Sado Jirde – aims to uncover the role power and privilege play in the kinds of future we can create and explores how we can deepen our awareness of what can be done to make social change happen.

### Sex Robots and Utopian Fantasies Sat 21 May 2016, 17:00-18:30

Advances in computing, robotics, and artificial intelligence systems predict that sex robots will play an important role in our future lives. Some people welcome the potential such robots promise, but others see them very differently. Genevieve Liveley and Kate Devlin look at what we might learn from the history of these machines, a history which anticipates both our utopian fantasies and dystopian fears.

### Creating Everyday Utopias Through Play Sat 21 May 2016, 19:30-21:00

Everyday utopias mean that instead of dreaming about better worlds, participants seek to create them in different ways through their life and work. Davina Cooper, author of *Everyday Utopias*, examines innovative projects from speakers' corners to crowd-sourced constitutions. She argues that these often playful, improvised activities challenge taken-for-granted notions of how markets and states work. They also suggest new progressive ways of performing them.

### Imagining the Future Screen Utopias and Screening of *Things to Come* (1936) Sun 22 May 2016, 11:00-13:30

What is it about the idea of things to come that energises and terrifies in equal measure? How can we imagine what is not yet here and what is to follow – tomorrow or 100 hundred years in the future? Tim Boon, Adam O'Brien, Sefryn Penrose, Angela Piccini and Sarah Street discuss the different ways in which 'things to come' have been explored on the silver screen. The panel discussion will be followed by a special screening of *Things to Come* (Alexander Korda, 1936).

## Festival of Ideas

### The Life Project The Extraordinary Story of Our Ordinary Lives Mon 25 April 2016, 18:30-20:00 Wills Memorial Building Free, but booking required

In March 1946 scientists began to track thousands of children born in one particular week. No one imagined that this would become the longest-running study of human development in the world, growing to encompass five generations of children and changing the way we are born, schooled, parented and die. Helen Pearson, author of *The Life Project*, discusses the importance of these studies with John Henderson, Becky Mars, Tom Vlietstra and Claire Bishop, people involved in the later Bristol project, Children of the 90s.

### Chris Packham *Fingers in the Sparkle Jar* Wed 4 May 2016, 19:00-20:00 Waterstones £5

In *Fingers in the Sparkle Jar* TV presenter Chris Packham brings to life his childhood in the 70s, from his bedroom bursting with fox skulls, birds' eggs and sweaty jam jars, to his feral adventures, and talks about his search for freedom, meaning and acceptance in a world that didn't understand him.

### Film Screening *Shoah*, Parts One and Two Sun 22 May 2016, 11:00-15:30 (with break) Watershed £6.50 / £4.50

*Shoah* (1985), a Franco-British film directed by Claude Lanzmann about the Holocaust, is rightly regarded as one of the greatest documentaries of all time, hailed as a masterpiece by many critics. It uses interviews and visits to Holocaust sites combined with testimonies from survivors, witnesses, perpetrators and bystanders, often secretly recorded using hidden cameras. The screening of Parts 3 and 4 is on Sun 29 May (page 17).





**Lynsey Hanley and Gary Bell**  
**Social Mobility and Class**  
**Mon 23 May 2016, 18:30-19:30**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

There is a lot of talk about the role class plays in British society, but how exactly do we move from one 'class' to another – and, if we can do so, what effect does it have on us? Drawing on their own experiences, Lynsey Hanley and Gary Bell discuss social mobility and the psychological impacts of class.

**Dawn Foster**  
**Lean Out**  
**Mon 23 May 2016, 20:00-21:00**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

What would happen if mainstream feminism could throw its weight behind those suffering at the sharp end of austerity? Dawn Foster explains how grassroots campaigns led by women have scored victories in housing, immigration, employment rights and cuts, and argues that instead of leaning in, we need to disrupt, to shout back, to lean out.

**The Observer Lecture**  
**Laura Cumming**  
**Tue 24 May 2016**  
**18:30-19:30**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

Laura Cumming tells the story of a missing Velázquez portrait and the nineteenth-century bookseller determined to prove he had found it. Travelling from Spanish courts in the 1700s to the courtrooms and auction houses of London and New York in the present day, she explores the complex meaning of authenticity and the unshakable determination that drives both artists and collectors of their work, explaining how and why great works of art can affect us.

**TheObserver**

Images, left to right: Lynsey Hanley, Dawn Foster, Laura Cumming and Ken Livingstone

**Ken Livingstone**  
**Being Red**  
**Wed 25 May 2016, 12:30-13:30**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

How should the Left govern? Ken Livingstone gives an insider's account of Labour, offering a study of the Left's possibilities and limitations, with reflections on the current state of the party and a look into its future.

**Film Screening and Discussion**  
**Attacking the Devil: Harold Evans and the Last Nazi War Crime (2016)**  
**Wed 25 May 2016, 18:00-20:45**  
**(with break)**  
**Watershed**  
**£9 / £6.50 / £4.50**

The drug Thalidomide, developed by the Germans in World War Two, was prescribed by British doctors to help with morning sickness and led to tens of thousands of children born with serious defects. Harold Evans, the crusading editor of the *Sunday Times*, overcame cover-ups and British laws preventing public discussion of the scandal to launch a moral campaign in the early 1970s. Following the screening of a new film about his work, a panel will debate the film and the future of investigative journalism.

**Laura Bates**  
**Girl Up**  
**Wed 25 May 2016, 18:30-19:30**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

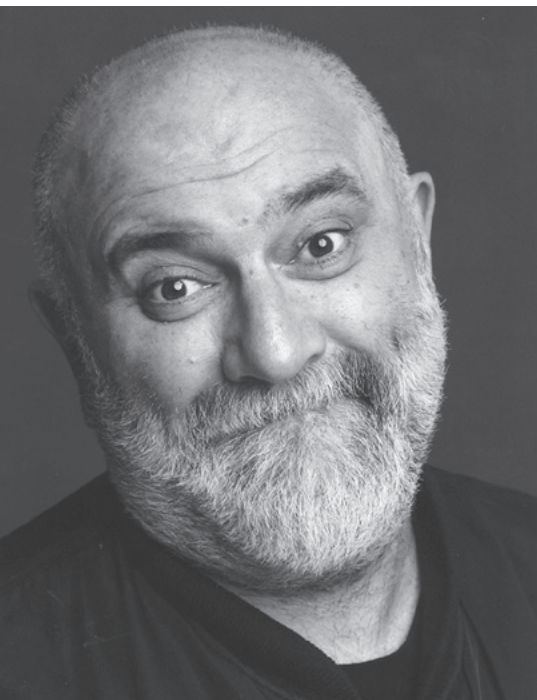
Laura Bates exposes the truth about the pressures surrounding body image, false representations in the media, the complexities of sex and relationships, the trials of social media, and the other lies women are told.

**Kat Banyard and Diane Martin**  
**Pimp State**  
**Wed 25 May 2016, 20:00-21:00**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

Never before have prostitution, strip clubs and pornography been as profitable, widely used or embedded in mainstream culture as they are today. How should society respond to the rise of the sex trade? Some maintain that prostitution is just work and porn is fantasy; fully legalise the sex trade and it can be made safe. But Kat Banyard contends that these are dangerous myths. She and Diane Martin discuss the issue.

**Novel Writers: Andrew Hurley**  
**The Loney**  
**Thu 26 May 2016, 18:30-19:30**  
**Spike Island**  
**£5 / £4**

This month's debut-novel book club introduces Andrew Hurley and his book *The Loney*. When the remains of a young child are discovered during a winter storm on a stretch of bleak Lancashire coastline, a man named Smith is forced to confront the terrifying and mysterious events that occurred 40 years earlier when he visited the place as a boy.



Alexei Sayle

**A C Grayling**  
**The Age of Genius**  
**Thu 26 May 2016, 18:30-19:30**  
**At-Bristol**  
**£7 / £6**

A C Grayling explores the story of seventeenth-century Europe and the birth of the modern mind. He reveals how and why this turbulent period became the crucible of modernity, and explains what we can still learn from the greatest ever change in the mental outlook of humanity.

**Alexei Sayle**  
**Thatcher Stole My Trousers**  
**Thu 26 May 2016, 20:00-21:00**  
**At-Bristol**  
**£7 / £6**

In 1971 comedians on the working men's club circuit imagined that they would be free to go on telling their tired, racist, misogynistic gags forever, but their nemesis, a 19-year-old Marxist art student with a bizarre concern for the health of British manufacturing, was slowly coming to meet them. Recounting the opening season of the Comedy Store, Sayle chronicles a time when comedy and politics came together in electrifying ways.

**Alec Ross**  
**The Industries of the Future**  
**Fri 27 May 2016, 12:30-13:30**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

How will we adapt to the changing nature of work? Is the prospect of cyberwar sparking the next arms race? What can today's parents do to prepare their children for tomorrow? Alec Ross, former advisor to Hillary Clinton, explores the technological and economic trends and developments that will shape the next ten years. He reveals the advances and stumbling blocks that will emerge and explains how we can navigate them.

**Steve Silberman**  
**NeuroTribes**  
**Fri 27 May 2016, 13:00-14:00**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

What is autism: a devastating developmental condition, a lifelong disability, or a naturally occurring form of cognitive difference akin to certain forms of genius? In truth, it is all of these things and more – and the future of our society depends on our understanding it. Steve Silberman provides long-sought solutions to the autism puzzle while casting light on the growing movement of 'neurodiversity'.

**Timothy Garton Ash**  
**Free Speech**  
**Fri 27 May 2016, 18:30-19:30**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

Never in human history has there been such a chance for freedom of expression. Never has there been a time when the evils of unlimited speech flowed so easily across frontiers: violent intimidation, gross violations of privacy, tidal waves of abuse. Timothy Garton Ash proposes a framework for civilised conflict in a world where we are all becoming neighbours.

**Andrew Simms**  
**We Want More Than This: Why a Better World is in Our Grasp**  
**Fri 27 May, 20:00-21:00**  
**Watershed**  
**£7 / £6**

We are in the grip of accelerating climatic upheaval and divisive global inequality; rapid transition to a new economic system is urgently needed. Andrew Simms explains how people of all political persuasions are departing from the old orthodoxies, creating radical working examples of a new system. A great moment of global despair is being turned into an opportunity to re-imagine how we can organise our lives and economic affairs, and real people are proving that better worlds are possible.



### The Blair Legacy

Sat 28 May 2016, 10:30-12:00

Watershed

£7 / £6

With unprecedented access to Whitehall officials, military officers and politicians, Tom Bower reveals the full story of Tony Blair's decade in power, disentangling the mystery and illuminating the ultimate tragedy of power. He is joined by Bristol Labour MP Thangam Debbonaire and Glen O'Hara (Oxford Brookes University) to debate the Blair legacy.

### Christopher Frayling

French without Tears

Sat 28 May 2016, 14:00-15:00

Watershed

£7 / £6

Philip French, who died last year, was Britain's foremost film critic. Bristol Festival of Ideas and Watershed are delighted to be organising and hosting this annual lecture devoted to his memory. In the first lecture Christopher Frayling celebrates French's life and work, examines some of his many contributions to film culture; evaluates his career as a critic and radio producer; and re-visits his obsession with the Western.



Margo Jefferson (by Michael Lionstar)

### Hsiao-Hung Pai

Angry White People

Sat 28 May 2016, 14:00-15:00

Watershed

£7 / £6

Following a group of individuals who got caught up in the wave of far-right street movements that began in 2009, Hsiao-Hung Pai investigated the rise of the EDL and other far-right organisations, delving deep into the day-to-day lives of the most marginalised section of the white working class. She explains that their ideologies are not an aberration, but rather are increasingly incorporated into mainstream politics and media discourse.

Hsiao-Hung Pai

### Margo Jefferson

Negroland

Sat 28 May 2016, 15:30-16:30

Watershed

£7 / £6

The daughter of a successful paediatrician and a fashionable socialite, Margo Jefferson spent her childhood among the great and the good of Chicago's black elite. She charts the twists and turns of a life informed by psychological and moral contradictions, and offers a meditation on race, sex, class and American culture, told through the prism of her experience of growing up and being educated amongst Chicago's upper-class black community.

### Frank Dikötter

The Cultural Revolution

Sat 28 May 2016, 17:00-18:00

Watershed

£7 / £6

After the economic disaster of the Great Leap Forward, Chairman Mao launched an ambitious scheme to shore up his reputation and eliminate those he viewed as a threat to his legacy. With unprecedented access to previously classified party documents, from secret police reports to uncensored versions of leadership speeches, Frank Dikötter reveals the impacts of the Cultural Revolution in China, giving a voice to the people and the complex choices they faced.

### Film Screening

Shoah, Parts Three and Four

Sun 29 May 2016, 11:00-15:30

(with break)

Watershed

£6.50 / £4.50

The documentary *Shoah* (1985) won many awards and aroused great controversy, the *New York Times* calling it 'an epic film about the greatest evil of modern times'. The Holocaust sites visited include Chelmno, where mobile gas vans were first used by Germans to exterminate Jews; the death camps of Treblinka and Auschwitz-Birkenau; and the Warsaw Ghetto. The screening of Parts 1 and 2 is on Sun 22 May (page 11).

### Vintage Lecture 2016

Yanis Varoufakis

Europe, Austerity and the Threat to Global Security

Sun 29 May 2016, 14:00-15:00

St George's Bristol

£8 / £7

Yanis Varoufakis, former finance minister of Greece, recounts Europe's economic rise and fall, arguing that the origins of the collapse go far deeper than leaders are prepared to admit – and that we have done nothing so far to prevent the next collapse.

## VINTAGE



**Richard Thaler**  
**Misbehaving: The Making of**  
**Behavioural Economics**

**Tue 31 May 2016, 12:30-13:30**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

Whether buying an alarm clock, selling football tickets or applying for a mortgage, we all succumb to biases and make decisions that deviate from the standards of rationality. Coupling recent discoveries in human psychology with a practical understanding of incentives and market behaviour, Richard Thaler exposes the irrational tendencies in our thinking and shows us how to avoid making costly mistakes in life.

**Rosamund Bartlett and**  
**Helen Dunmore**  
**Changing Minds in Anna Karenina**

**Tue 31 May 2016, 19:00-20:00**

**Waterstones**

**£6 / £4**

Rosamund Bartlett and Helen Dunmore explore Tolstoy's treatment of the mind and its illnesses in *Anna Karenina*. Tolstoy's understanding drives his narrative and gives us some of the most detailed portraits of mental illness in literature, from Kitty's collapse after her rejection by Vronsky to Levin's existential anguish and Anna's slow slide into depression and suicide. They discuss how Tolstoy's own experience of depression informs and illuminates the novel.

**Thomas Keneally**  
**Napoleon's Last Island**

**Thu 2 June 2016, 12:30-13:30**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

In his latest novel, award-winning author Thomas Keneally (*Schindler's Ark*) explores the intriguing tale of the friendship that sprang up between Napoleon and Betsy Balcombe, a young girl living on the south Atlantic island of St Helena while the Emperor was exiled there.



Paul Mason (by Antonio Olmos)

**Lindy West**  
**Shrill**

**Fri 3 June 2016, 19:00-20:00**

**Waterstones**

**£6 / £4**

Lindy West recounts how she went from being the butt of people's jokes to telling her own brand of jokes – ones that come with a serious message and aren't at someone else's expense. She reveals the obstacles and misogyny she's had to overcome to make herself heard, and takes on some of the most burning issues of today, looking at racism, social injustice, fat-shaming, Twitter-trolling and rape culture.



Claudia Hammond

**Paul Mason**  
**PostCapitalism: A Guide**  
**to Our Future**

**Tue 7 June 2016, 18:30-20:00**

**St George's Bristol**

**£8 / £7**

Paul Mason shows how a revolution in information technology has the potential to reshape our familiar notions of work, production and value, and to destroy an economy based on markets and private ownership. He explains how we now have the chance to create a more socially just and sustainable global economy; and argues that moving beyond capitalism is no longer a utopian dream.

**Claudia Hammond**  
**Mind over Money**

**Fri 10 June 2016, 12:30-13:30**

**Watershed**

**£7 / £6**

How much do we really understand money? Why do we behave the way we do with it? And why does it have such a hold on us? Claudia Hammond delves into the surprising psychology of money to show us that our relationship with it is more complex than we might think. She reveals some simple and effective ways to help us think, save and use money better.

## Bristol800 – Other Events/

Each Bristol800 Weekender will use art and culture to provide fresh perspectives on Bristol anniversaries and other key historic moments to be marked in 2016. For further information visit the website: [www.ideasfestival.co.uk/seasons/bristol-800](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk/seasons/bristol-800)

Among the events coming up are:

### Place, Time and Architecture The Architecture Centre at 20 Bristol800 Weekender: Fri 23 - Sun 25 September 2016

To mark the Architecture Centre's 20th anniversary, this weekend celebration of people and places in the city will include an exhibition, city tours, a family Fun Palace event and an artist commission. It is held in partnership with UWE's Department of Architecture and the Built Environment which is also celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2016.



### Civic Bristol Bristol800 Weekender: Fri 14 - Sun 16 October 2016

Led by the Lord Mayor's Office in partnership with Bristol's Guild of Guardians, this weekend commemorating Bristol governance through the ages will include a full display of mayoral archives, a walking tour of civic Bristol and the unveiling of a new, specially commissioned artwork. It will also see the publication and distribution of the Bristol800 book.



## University Showcase Bristol800 Weekender: Fri 11 - Sun 13 November 2016

This weekend will showcase projects at both of the city's universities that involve collaboration with Bristol's cultural organisations and will include the first annual conference on culture/university partnerships – an initiative of BCDP with ACE and Plymouth College of Art – which will feature case studies, debates, tours, and student and staff presentations.



### The Art of Flight Bristol800 Weekender: Fri 25 - Sun 27 November 2016

*The Art of Flight* is a year-long programme led by St George's Bristol celebrating Bristol's aviation industry and the 150th anniversary of the Royal Aeronautical Society. This special weekend will see performances of newly commissioned music on the flight theme and a fun day of hands-on experiences and music-making.



### Strange Worlds The Vision of Angela Carter Bristol800 Weekender: Fri 9 - Sun 11 December 2016

The Royal West of England Academy exhibition *Strange Worlds* (Sat 10 December 2016 - Sun 19 March 2017) brings together art and literature to mark the 25th anniversary of the death of the novelist Angela Carter who lived and wrote in Bristol for nearly a decade. The Bristol800 Weekender will see special events and activity reflecting Carter's fantastical imagination.



RWA

*Tail of the Tiger* Eileen Cooper, 2002



## Venues and how to book/

Our events take place in venues across Bristol city centre. You can book tickets online or by contacting the relevant venues. Go to individual event pages on [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk) for links to venues and full booking conditions, including details of booking fees where appropriate. Events start punctually and, out of consideration to other audience members and speakers, our policy is not to admit or issue refunds to latecomers. Refunds are only available if an event is cancelled. Please allow enough time to collect your ticket/s from the relevant box office (if these haven't already been posted to you), and make sure to arrive before the advertised start time to take your seat/s.

### At-Bristol

Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB  
Tel: 0117 915 1000 (local rate calls) (09:00-17:00 weekdays) [www.at-bristol.org.uk](http://www.at-bristol.org.uk)  
Please note that you can book tickets in person or over the phone but online booking is through the individual listing on [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

### St George's Bristol

Great George Street, Bristol BS1 5RR  
Tel: 0845 4024 001 (12:00-18:00 weekdays)  
[www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk](http://www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk)

### Spike Island

133 Cumberland Road, Bristol BS1 6UX  
Tel: 0117 929 2266 or visit in person  
(09:00-17:00 weekdays; 12:00-17:00 weekend)  
[www.spikeisland.org.uk](http://www.spikeisland.org.uk)

### Watershed

1 Canons Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX  
Tel: 0117 927 5100 (10:00-20:00 daily)  
[www.watershed.co.uk](http://www.watershed.co.uk)

### Waterstones

11A Union Galleries, Bristol BS1 3XD  
Tel: 0117 925 2274 (9:00-18:00 Mon - Sat, 10:30-17:00 Sun). Book online via the event page at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk). Tickets can also be purchased in store.

Wheelchair users and visitors who require an assistant may bring a companion free of charge. To book a free companion ticket please contact the relevant box office.

You can purchase tickets using Bristol's local currency the Bristol Pound – a great innovation designed to boost independent business in the city – at the following venues: **At-Bristol** (in person) and **Watershed** (in person and via text2pay).



### Free events

Booking is required for all free events. Book via the relevant event page at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

### Festival updates

Full programme details and booking information can be found on our website at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk). You can also sign up to our E-newsletters and Twitter feed for advance notification of events and speakers. This programme is subject to change and new events and speakers may be added. Please visit the website for updates and further information about those chairing and interviewing speakers.

## Acknowledgements/

The Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring programme of discussion and debate. The year-round festival, established in 2005, covers a wide range of topics, and welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, musicians, novelists and commentators on all subjects.

Bristol Festival of Ideas is an initiative of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership (BCDP):



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### Individual Giving

If you like what we do, and want to help us continue to keep our prices low and offer a wide range of free events, then please consider making a one-off donation via our Sponsor Page online. All donations go back into our events.

### Corporate Sponsorship

As a corporate sponsor, you will benefit from multiple branding opportunities, direct access to your target market, corporate hospitality, and association with the growing festival brand. From one-off sponsorship of an event, to working with us on a series or a new project, we can offer a range of packages to suit your objectives and budget. To discuss this further contact us via [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk) or email [zoe.steadmanmilne@businesswest.co.uk](mailto:zoe.steadmanmilne@businesswest.co.uk)

# Bristol Festival of Ideas /

In association with

**TheObserver**



## Bristol800

 @FestivalofIdeas  
[www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk)

Cover illustration:  
Frankenstein's Monster by Alys Jones

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