

in association with **TheObserver**

BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS



OCTOBER 2012 - JANUARY 2013 EVENTS

 @FestivalofIdeas
www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Our autumn programme looks at many issues – from what the movies mean to us to our first Festival of Economics.

Along the way we'll look at food, graphic novels, the coalition half way through its term of office, drugs, why the world is getting more peaceful, Shari'a Law and Islam. We've joined with the University of Bristol for the autumn art lectures and have some fine fiction writers including Will Self, Thomas Keneally and Richard Ford. We celebrate Jamaica 50. As we move into 2013, we have Jared Diamond, author of *Collapse* and *Guns, Germs and Steel*, exploring what we can learn from traditional societies.

www.ideasfestival.co.uk has full details of all events, including biographies, extensive event descriptions and more. There are details of how to book on each event page (and on the back page of this brochure). More events are launched monthly so please do sign up to the mailing list, subscribe to Twitter and Facebook and check out our blog.

Andrew Kelly
Director

AUTUMN 2012 EVENTS

DAVID THOMSON *THE BIG SCREEN: THE STORY OF THE MOVIES AND WHAT THEY DID TO US*

Watershed, Bristol

3 October 2012, 18.00-19.30, £8.00 / £6.50

David Thomson, one of film's greatest living experts, tells the enthralling story of the movies and how they have shaped us. Does the big screen take us out into the world, or merely mesmerize us? With film clips.

HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL *ON FOOD*

Great Hall, Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol

12 October 2012, 13.00-14.00,

Free but prebooking required

In this special free event, which launches a new partnership between the festival and University of Bristol, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, one of Britain's greatest writers,

broadcasters and campaigners on food, talks about his approach to food, and his food campaigns. To book go to event page at www.ideasfestival.co.uk.

MAKE YOUR MONEY COUNT *ETHICAL FINANCE CONFERENCE 2012*

Council House, College Green, Bristol

13 October 2012, 9.30-15.30, £15.00 / £10.00

Financial crisis, Occupy Bristol, bank bailouts, international tax evasion. What does it all mean? This one-day conference, part of National Ethical Investment Week, aims to cut through the frenzy and explore key issues around how we use and invest our money. To book go to ethicalfinance2012.eventbrite.co.uk.



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Richard Ford

RICHARD FORD *CANADA*

Foyles, Cabot Circus, Bristol

15 October 2012, 18.30-19.30, £6.00 / £4.99

Richard Ford's books have been praised universally and won him many awards as well as a massive international readership. His new book, *Canada*, is no exception: a visionary novel of vast landscapes, complex identities and fragile humanity. Online booking only. Go to event page at www.ideasfestival.co.uk.

STEVEN PINKER *WHY THE WORLD IS GETTING MORE PEACEFUL*

At-Bristol

15 October 2012, 19.00-20.15, £7.00 / £6.00

Steven Pinker argues that modernity and its cultural institutions are making us better people, and that violence within and between societies – both murder and warfare – has actually declined from prehistory to today.

WILL SELF *UMBRELLA*

Arncliffe, Bristol

25 October 2012, 18.00-19.00, £7.00 / £6.00

Radical in its conception, uncompromising in its style, Will Self's new novel *Umbrella* is his most extravagant and imaginative work to date and has been shortlisted for the 2012 man Booker Prize.



Thomas Keneally

THOMAS KENEALLY *THE DAUGHTERS OF MARS*

Arncliffe, Bristol

25 October 2012, 19.30-20.30, £7.00 / £6.00

In his latest book, award-winning author Thomas Keneally (*Schindler's Ark*) offers a fresh focus on the First World War, examining the roles ordinary people take in momentous events in a profoundly moving tale that pays tribute to the men and women who voluntarily risked their lives for peace.

POLLY TOYNBEE AND DAVID WALKER PLUS PANEL *THE COALITION AT HALF TIME*

At-Bristol

26 October 2012, 18.00-19.30, £7.00 / £6.00

Looking in detail at the government's policies during their first two years in power, Toynbee and Walker argue that by the next election the welfare state may be in irrecoverable ruins. Bristol MPs Charlotte Leslie, Kerry McCarthy and Stephen Williams will respond.

PETER HITCHENS AND HOWARD MARKS *THE WAR ON DRUGS?*

Arncliffe, Bristol

29 October 2012, 18.15-19.30, £7.50 / £6.50

Journalist, author and broadcaster Peter Hitchens, who believes all drugs are dangerous, debates drug policy and its effectiveness and what should happen in the future with Howard Marks who campaigns vigorously for the legalisation of recreational drugs.



Jonathan Dimbleby



Colin Grant

JONATHAN DIMBLEBY *DESTINY IN THE DESERT - THE STORY OF EL ALAMEIN*

Watershed, Bristol

2 November 2012, 12.30-13.30,

Free, but prebooking required

Jonathan Dimbleby describes the political and strategic realities that lay behind the British victory at the Battle of El Alamein in November 1942, creating a vivid portrait of a struggle which for Churchill marked the turn of the tide and 'the end of the beginning'. To book go to event page at www.ideasfestival.co.uk. Bristol Festival of Ideas is planning a wide-ranging programme of events in 2014 to mark twentieth-century conflict and its impact on Bristol. Details will be launched in 2013. This event is the first in a series building up to 2014.

CLIVE ASLET *WAR MEMORIAL: THE STORY OF ONE VILLAGE'S SACRIFICE FROM 1914 TO 2003*

Watershed, Bristol

5 November 2012, 18.00-19.00, £7.00 / £6.00

Journalist and writer Clive Aslet tells the story of the war memorial in the Dartmoor village of Lydford, tracing in vivid detail the lives of the 22 men, and one woman, who made the supreme sacrifice fighting for Britain in the two World Wars, the Falklands and Iraq.

JAMAICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: BEYOND THE BOUNDARY

Watershed, Bristol

2 November - 4 November 2012,

Various prices

This three-day celebration of 50 years of independence for Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago kicks off with a day conference featuring guests including Brian Meeks (University of the West Indies) and Gavin Nicholas (High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago.) Join them for a reflection on the political, cultural and economic development of these countries since independence but also their impact on the Caribbean Diaspora in Bristol and the UK. Over the weekend, there will be talks by Colin Grant (*Bageye at the Wheel*) and Andrea Stuart (*Sugar In The Blood*), poetry and spoken-word readings by Bristol's finest, as well as screenings including *Blood and Fire*, a history of Jamaica's struggle for independence and political autonomy and *Omnibus: Beyond a Boundary*, a reflection by the great Trinidadian intellectual C.L.R. James on the influence of cricket on Caribbean society. Sit back and relax on Sunday with *Sounds from the Caribbean*; a double-bill of *Calypso Dreams* featuring Harry Belafonte, The Mighty Sparrow, Singing Sandra and Black Stalin followed by *Reggae*, Horace Ové's directorial debut; the first feature-length film financed by black people in Britain.

Co-curated by Dr Edson Burton and Dr Peter Clegg presented in partnership with Watershed, UWE and Afrika Eye.

For full details of events and for prices see www.ideasfestival.co.uk and www.watershed.co.uk

MAAJID NAWAZ AND SHIV MALIK *RADICAL: MY JOURNEY FROM ISLAMIST EXTREMISM TO A DEMOCRATIC AWAKENING*

Watershed, Bristol

5 November 2012, 19.30-21.00, £7.00 / £6.00

Former political prisoner, Maajid Nawaz will be interviewed by writer and journalist Shiv Malik about the work he now does to undermine the Islamist beliefs he had once been prepared to die for.

CALEB SCHARF *GRAVITY'S ENGINES: BLACK HOLES, THE UNIVERSE AND LIFE*

Watershed, Bristol

7 November 2012, 18.00-19.00, £6.50 / £5.00

Astrophysicist Caleb Scharf takes us on an intimate journey through the endlessly colourful place we call our galaxy and reminds us that the Milky Way sits in a special place in the cosmic zoo.

SADAKAT KADRI *HEAVEN ON EARTH: A JOURNEY THROUGH SHARI'A LAW*

Watershed, Bristol

7 November 2012, 19.30-20.30, £6.50 / £5.00

Criminal barrister and prizewinning writer, Sadakat Kadri, investigates *Shari'a Law*. Some 1,400 years after the Prophet Muhammad first articulated the *shari'a*, its interpreters are still arguing over what it means. Hardliners reduce it to veiling, holy war and stonings. Others say that it is humanity's only guarantee of a just society.



Sadakat Kadri



Alison Bechdel

COMIC CREATIONS AN EVENING WITH JONATHAN CAPE GRAPHIC NOVELS

Arncliffe, Bristol

14 November 2012, 18.00-21.45,

£12.00 / £10.00

We present an evening celebrating graphic novels. Simone Lia, Karrie Fransman and Katie Green invite you to debate the big questions facing the comic medium today. Bryan and Mary Talbot discuss their first graphic novel collaboration, *Dotter of Her Father's Eyes*. Joff Winterhart and Hannah Berry will be drawing live. Alison Bechdel will discuss her new graphic memoir. Ravi Thornton will read her work *The Tale of Brin & Bent and Minno Marylebone*, with projected artwork by illustrator Andy Hixon, and musical score by Othon performed live throughout.



Katie Green's 'Lighter Than My Shadow'



GUEST PROGRAMMER: DIANE COYLE

We remain in a deep financial and economic crisis. Both the economy and economics will be irrevocably changed by the crisis. The Festival of Economics will confront the economists with their critics, bringing together academic economists, practitioners of economics, and challengers from both inside and outside the subject. It will celebrate economics, an intellectually powerful discipline with a rich history, and also look at its recent failures. Economics has a profound influence on politics and public policy: it is too important to be left to economists.

All events take place in **At-Bristol**. Each event is charged at £7.00 (full) / £5.00 (concessions) with a ticket for all events at £20.00 / £18.00.

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THE FUTURE OF CAPITALISM

23 November 2012

18.00-19.30

The panel will debate the nature of the economic system itself. Does the crisis reveal fundamental flaws in capitalist economies? Or is this just the end of the road for the 'neo-liberal' project that has been implemented in government policies on both sides of the Atlantic since the 1980s? How do politics and economics entwine to shape the nature of the economy?

Chair: David Smith, Economics Editor, *Sunday Times*.
Larry Elliott, Economics Editor, *Guardian*; author of *Going South: Why Britain Will Have a Third World Economy by 2014*.

John Kay, founding Director of the Said Business School, Oxford University; writer, most recently *Obliquity: Why Our Goals Are Best Achieved Indirectly*.

Rachel Lomax, economist, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England 2003-2008.

Daniel Stedman Jones, barrister, author of *Masters of the Universe: Hayek, Friedman, and the Birth of Neoliberal Politics*.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND POVERTY
(WITH JOSEPH ROWNTREE
FOUNDATION)

24 November 2012

11.30-13.00

The panel will discuss how an individual person's characteristics (skills, experience, family background) and their social context combine to shape their economic opportunities. Is poverty best addressed by policies for people or policies for places? Why do 'poverty traps' have postcodes? And in the context of an economic downturn, is there any hope for progress on reducing poverty?

Chair: Julia Unwin, Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust.

Geoff Andrews, senior lecturer in politics, Open University and author of *The Slow Food Story: Politics and Pleasure*.

Paul Gregg, Professor of Economic and Social Policy, and Director of the Centre for Analysis and Social Policy, University of Bath.

Lynsey Hanley, writer, author of *Estates: An Intimate History*.

Paul Johnson, Director, Institute for Fiscal Studies.

WHAT NEXT FOR BRITAIN'S
ECONOMY?

24 November 2012

14.00-15.30

There is a fierce debate between advocates of a government stimulus for the economy and those who say the longer-term cost of more stimulus is too high, and this economic debate maps onto party politics too. And what about the underlying strength or weakness of the UK economy? Is British industry ready to take advantage of a return to growth? Is there any prospect of this while the Euro crisis continues?

Chair: Heather Stewart, Economics Editor, the *Observer*.

Peter Marsh, *Financial Times*' manufacturing editor, author, *The New Industrial Revolution: Consumers, Globalization and the End of Mass Production*.

Jonathan Portes, Director, National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Vicky Pryce, Senior Managing Director, FTI Consulting Inc.; Formerly Joint Head, UK Government Economic Service, 2007-2010; author of *Greeconomics*.

Andrew Sentance, member, Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee October 2006 - May 2011; now senior economic adviser Pricewaterhouse Coopers.

ECONOMICS IN CRISIS

24 November 2012

16.30-18.00

This session turns the spotlight on the subject of economics itself. Economists will try to debate honestly the weaknesses as well as the strengths of the subject, and respond to some of the challenges from critics. What is the status of economic knowledge, and how much does the subject need to change because of the crisis?

Chair: Richard Marshall, *3am*.

Aditya Chakraborty, economics leader writer at the *Guardian*.

Diane Coyle, Enlightenment Economics, author of *The Economics of Enough: How to Run the Economy as If the Future Matters*.

Paul Ormerod, Volterra Partners, author of *Positive Linking: How Networks Can Revolutionise the World* and *Why Most Things Fail*.

Carol Propper, Professor, Economics of Public Policy, University of Bristol.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL AUTUMN ART LECTURE SERIES 2012

The theme of this year's Autumn Art Lecture series is the art of the book, presented in association with the Festival of Ideas. All events take place in the **Great Hall, Wills Memorial Building, Queen's Road** and start at **6.00pm**. Tickets are free, but advance booking is essential.

PROFESSOR DAVID MCKITTERICK
THE ART OF THE BOOK IN HISTORY
23 October 2012

DENISE MINA
MAKING THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO INTO A GRAPHIC NOVEL
30 October 2012

TIM DEE
IT PASSES QUICKLY AS A THOUGHT – FLIGHT, PAINTING AND EXTINCTION IN AUDUBON'S LIFE AND WORK
6 November 2012

Visit www.bristol.ac.uk/autumn-art-lectures for details and booking links.

PROFESSOR PHIL BAINES
PENGUIN COVER STORIES: FROM THE TYPOGRAPHIC TO THE VISUAL
13 November 2012

DR JAN MARSH
WILLIAM MORRIS AND THE ART OF THE BOOK
20 November 2012

SARAH BODMAN
THE CONTEMPORARY ARTIST AND THE ART OF THE BOOK
27 November 2012

JARED DIAMOND
THE WORLD UNTIL YESTERDAY: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES?

At-Bristol

31 January 2013, 19.00-20.00, £7.00 / £6.00

In this rare appearance, Pulitzer Prize-winner Jared Diamond explores how tribal peoples approach essential human problems, from childrearing to old age to conflict resolution to health, and discovers that we have much to learn from traditional ways of life.



Jared Diamond



Hsiao-Hung Pai

FREE FOYLES EVENTS

These events are free but places need to be booked. Go to each individual page at www.ideasfestival.co.uk for details and booking links. All events take place at **Foyles, Cabot Circus, Bristol**.



ODD ARNE WESTAD
ON CHINA
22 October 2012, 18.00-19.00

TOM REISS
THE REAL COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO?
24 October 2012, 18.30-19.30

AMAN SETHI
A FREE MAN: A TRUE STORY OF LIFE AND DEATH IN DELHI
8 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

STEPHEN TROMBLEY AND CHRISTOPHER BERTRAM
GREAT THINKERS THAT HAVE SHAPED THE MODERN WORLD
9 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

JUAN GABRIEL VASQUEZ
THE SOUND OF THINGS FALLING
12 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

HSIAO-HUNG PAI
SCATTERED SAND THE STORY OF CHINA'S RURAL MIGRANTS
21 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

SEUMAS MILNE
THE REVENGE OF HISTORY: THE BATTLE FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
22 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

RAY MONK
ROBERT OPPENHEIMER AND THE REVOLUTION IN 20TH CENTURY PHYSICS
28 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

DANIEL TRILLING
BLOODY NASTY PEOPLE: THE RISE OF BRITAIN'S FAR RIGHT
29 November 2012, 18.30-19.30

VENUES AND HOW TO BOOK

Our events take place in venues across Bristol city centre. Unless otherwise stated in the brochure, please contact the relevant venues (right) to book and purchase your tickets (prices are listed next to each event). Events start punctually and, out of consideration to other audience members and speakers, our policy is not to admit or issue refunds to latecomers. 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. All venues have online booking for events. Go to individual event details on www.ideasfestival.co.uk for links for individual venues.

Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA
Tel: 0117 917 2300 (08.30-17.30 daily)
Email: boxoffice@arnolfini.org.uk
www.arnolfini.org.uk

At-Bristol, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB
Tel: 0845 4586 499 (local rate calls)
(09.00-17.00 weekdays)
www.at-bristol.org.uk

Watershed, 1 Canons Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5TX
Tel: 0117 927 5100 (10.00-20.30 daily)
www.watershed.co.uk

Free Foyles Events
Foyles, Cabot Circus, Bristol
These can only be booked online via the event page on www.ideasfestival.co.uk. All Foyles events are free apart from the Richard Ford event which is booked via the event page at www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Free Events
All other free events are booked via relevant event pages at www.ideasfestival.co.uk

BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

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 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):

BCDP culture | ideas | arts and sciences



The following organisations and companies are sponsors and partners in the 2012 Festival of Ideas programme:

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FESTIVAL UPDATES

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

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

We need your help to make the festival even better in the future. We're keen to expand the programme to have more in-depth themed weekends like the new Festival of Economics, attract more international speakers to Bristol, expand into exhibitions and other events, keep prices low and have as many free events as we can. But we need your help. Currently, the festival is funded through ticket income, sponsorship and fundraising and some investment from Bristol City Council, Business West and Arts Council England in the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership. From January 2013 we'll be launching a fundraising campaign to develop new sources of income to support current activities and the expanded programme. We very much hope we will have your involvement in this. Watch out for special leaflets at events and details in the next brochure.

Photo credits: Front cover (left to right): Andrea Stuart (by Julia Hember), Maajid Nawaz, Katie Green (self portrait), Aman Sethi (by Ishan Tankha) and Polly Toynbee (by Eamonn McCabe).

Text pages (in order of appearance): Richard Ford (by Laura Wilson), Thomas Keneally (by Sean Pollock) and Jonathan Dimbleby (by Antonio Olmos).

