



BRISTOL

FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

SPRING 2009

EVENTS

# BRISTOL FESTIVAL OF IDEAS

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

To welcome in 2009, we have a new programme packed full of events, including a series of lectures from the University of Bristol to celebrate its centenary year. Full programme details and booking information are available on our new website: [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk). Enhanced with interactive features, the new website offers an 'Ideas' section of think-pieces, RSS feeds for automatic updates and an online booking service for selected events.

**Andrew Kelly**  
Director



## CLAY SHIRKY

### THE WEB, NEW NETWORKS AND ORGANISATIONS

In association with the University of Bristol  
and Creative Technology Network

**2 February 2009, 19.30-20.30**

WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING, QUEENS ROAD,  
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ

The revolution will not be televised, it will be emailed, blogged and twittered. The internet is transforming how we live, work and play. New ways of organising change are now possible. Forming groups is easier than it's ever been: unpaid volunteers can build an encyclopaedia together in their spare time, mistreated customers can join forces to get their revenge on airlines and high street banks, and one man with a laptop can raise an army to help recover a stolen phone. The results of this new world of easy collaboration can be both good and bad. For the first time, we have the tools to make group action truly a reality to change our world. Shirky's new book, *Here Comes Everybody: How Change Happens When People Come Together*, looks at how change is happening and can happen in the future.

#### How to book

This event is free of charge, but must be booked in advance. Book online at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).



## MICHAEL SHERMER

### WHY DARWIN MATTERS: THE CASE FOR EVOLUTION AND AGAINST INTELLIGENT DESIGN

In association with the University of Bristol

**3 February 2009, 18.00-19.00**

WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING, QUEENS ROAD,  
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ

Dr Michael Shermer, Director of the Skeptics Society, and author of *Why Darwin Matters: The Case Against Intelligent Design*, amongst many other books, comes to Bristol to talk about evolution and intelligent design. Condemned as junk science or pseudoscience by many scientists, intelligent design has been debated in all sectors of US society and even been the subject of court cases. In this year, celebrating the life and work of Charles Darwin, Shermer, in a wide-ranging talk, puts forward the case for evolution and against intelligent design. Expect also scepticism about many other issues. A rare opportunity to hear a leading US commentator. Chaired by Bruce Hood, University of Bristol, author of the forthcoming *SuperSense: Why We Believe the Unbelievable*.

#### How to book

This event is free of charge, but must be booked in advance. Book online at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

## KEN ROBINSON THE ELEMENT

In association with Real Ideas Organisation

**5 February 2009, 19.00-20.30**

ARNOLFINI, 16 NARROW QUAY, BRISTOL BS1 4QA

In this special event, Sir Ken Robinson shows that age and occupation are no barrier to creativity, and argues that there is an urgent need to enhance innovation by thinking differently about ourselves. We are all born with tremendous natural capacities, but lose touch with them as we spend more time in the world. Whether it's a child bored in class, an employee being misused, or just someone who feels frustrated but can't quite explain why, too many people don't know what they are really capable of achieving. Education, business and society as a whole are losing out. Sir Ken's new book, *The Element*, draws on the stories of a wide range of people – from ex-Beatle Paul McCartney to renowned physicist Richard Feynman and many others, including business leaders and athletes – showing how all of them came to recognise their unique talents and were able to make a successful living doing what they love.

### How to book

Prices: £12.00 (talk only); £25.00 (talk, plus a copy of *The Element*); £20.00 (as part of a group of 10 or more people, to include a copy of *The Element*). Contact Arnolfini on: 0117 917 2300 or visit in person.

## LEONARD SUSSKIND DARWIN AND THE COSMIC LANDSCAPE

A Bristol Festival of Ideas / University of Bristol Centenary Lecture

**26 February 2009, 18.00-19.00**

WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING, QUEENS ROAD,  
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ

Leonard Susskind, Felix Bloch Professor of Theoretical Physics at Stanford University, comes to Bristol to talk about 'Darwin and the cosmic landscape'. In many ways the universe seems to be surprisingly well constructed for our own existence: it seems 'intelligently designed'. But cosmologists and physicists are tracing this illusion of intelligent design to principles which parallel those of Darwinian evolution. Just as there is a vast landscape of biological designs, our best theories of physics imply an equally vast landscape of universe designs. String theory provides an analogue of DNA for the universe and modern cosmology makes use of a principle of mutation that creates a tremendously large multiverse. A tiny fraction of the multiverse is suitable for life, and it is no surprise that that is where life is found.

### How to book

This event is free of charge, but must be booked in advance. Book online at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

## JASPER FFORDE

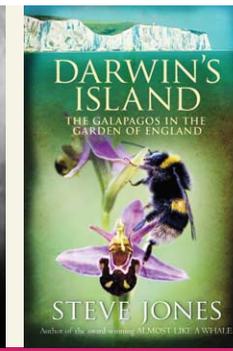
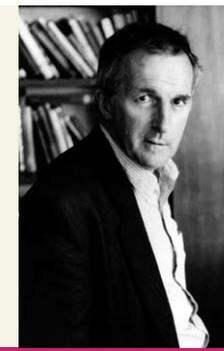
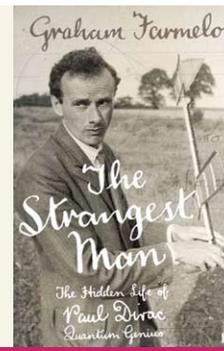
**3 March 2009, 18.30 for a 19.00 start**

BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, UNIVERSITY ROAD,  
BRISTOL BS8 1SR

Popular author Jasper Fforde comes to Bristol to talk about his career in film and literature. Jasper is currently working on a brand new series of books, *Shades of Grey*, the first of which will be published in August 2009. He will be answering audience questions and signing books.

### How to book

Price: £7.00 / £5.00 (includes light refreshments and live music). For tickets and further information, email Lucy Shepherd at: [lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk).



## GRAHAM FARMELO PAUL DIRAC: BRISTOL'S EINSTEIN

In association with the University of Bristol

**9 March 2009, 17.00-18.00**

TYNDALL LECTURE THEATRE, PHYSICS  
DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL,  
TYNDALL AVENUE, BRISTOL BS8 1TL

Graham Farmelo, author of the new biography *The Strangest Man: The Hidden Life of Paul Dirac, Quantum Genius*, looks at Dirac's achievements and at how his approach to physics was crucially influenced by his education in Bristol. Dirac, the greatest scientist Britain produced in the twentieth century, was born, bred and educated in Bristol. He came from a modest home and did not at first shine brightly at school, but, by the time he was 25, he was one of the most famous physicists in the world for his work on quantum theory. By the time he was 31, he was the youngest theoretician ever to win the Nobel Prize in physics.

### How to book

This event is free of charge, but must be booked in advance. Book online at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

## STEVE JONES DARWIN'S ISLAND

**9 March 2009, 19.00-20.00**

ST GEORGE'S, GREAT GEORGE STREET, BRISTOL  
BS1 5RR

Steve Jones' new book, *Darwin's Island*, will be the definitive book on Darwin's life and work for the 200th anniversary of his birth and the 150th anniversary of *On the Origin of Species*. Justly known and celebrated for his *On the Origin of Species*, Darwin wrote six million words, in 19 books and innumerable letters, on topics as different as dogs, barnacles, insect-eating plants, orchids, earthworms, apes and human emotion. Together, they laid the foundations of modern biology. In his new, beautifully written, witty and illuminating book, *Darwin's Island*, Steve Jones explores Darwin's life and brings his work up to date. His talk looks back at this remarkable life and Darwinism today.

### How to book

Price: £6.00 / £4.00. Contact St George's, Bristol on: 0845 402 4001 or visit in person.

**MISHA GLENNY**  
MCMAFIA: SERIOUSLY  
ORGANISED CRIME

In conversation with BBC Radio 4's Executive  
Producer Sara Davies

**18 March 2009, 18.30 for a 19.00 start**

**BRISTOL GRAMMAR SCHOOL**, UNIVERSITY ROAD,  
BRISTOL BS8 1SR

Distinguished journalist and historian, Misha Glenny, takes us on a journey through the new world of international organised crime; a shadow economy that may now account for up to 20% of the world's GDP. Glenny tells the stories of gun runners in Ukraine, money launderers in Dubai, drug syndicates in Canada, cyber criminals in Brazil, racketeers in Japan and many more. He has spoken to countless gangsters, policemen and victims of organised crime while also exploring the ferocious consumer demand for drugs, trafficked women, illegal labour and arms across five continents. A breathtaking picture of the horrifying, sometimes inspiring, usually bizarre and occasionally funny state of crime in today's world, offering profound insights into the pitfalls of globalisation where the rules dividing the legal from the illegal are often far from clear. Glenny will also argue that conventional policing methods are no longer appropriate to deal with a problem whose roots lie in global poverty and the ever widening divisions between rich and poor.

**How to book**

Price: £7.00 / £5.00 (includes light refreshments and live music). For tickets and further information, email Lucy Shepherd at: [lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk](mailto:lshepherd@bgs.bristol.sch.uk).

**DANIEL C DENNETT**  
WHAT DOES MY BODY NEED  
ME FOR? THE ROLE OF HUMAN  
INTELLIGENCE

A Bristol Festival of Ideas / University of Bristol  
Centenary Lecture

**20 March 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**WILLS MEMORIAL BUILDING**, QUEENS ROAD,  
BRISTOL BS8 1RJ

Daniel Dennett, Austin B. Fletcher Professor of Philosophy at Tufts University, comes to Bristol to discuss 'What does my body need ME for? The role of human intelligence'. The more we learn about the powers of unconscious control systems – in robots and relatively simple animals, and in our own bodies – the more precisely we can pinpoint what 'conscious thought' accomplishes. It is not the 'pinnacle' or even the 'centre' of our agency, but without it, we could not be the agents that we are.

**How to book**

This event is free of charge, but must be booked in advance. Book online at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

# UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL CENTENARY LECTURES



Throughout 2009, to celebrate its centenary year, the University of Bristol will be holding a series of lectures on key ideas which shape our thinking in the 21st century. The lectures will address topics such as human rights, the role of consciousness, global health challenges and human creativity. For more information on the full centenary lecture programme, visit: [www.bristol.ac.uk/centenary/listen/lectures](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/centenary/listen/lectures).



*David Ellwood,  
Jonathan Kestenbaum,  
Mona Siddiqui and  
David Puttnam*

The following events will take place at the Wills Memorial Building, Queens Road, Bristol BS8 1RJ. They are free of charge, but must be booked in advance. All except the David Ellwood lecture can be booked online at: [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

**DAVID ELLWOOD**

WHAT IS BEYOND WELFARE TO  
WORK? REFLECTIONS ON THE NEXT  
GENERATIONS OF SOCIAL POLICY  
**23 January 2009, 18.00-19.00**

To book this event, please email the  
Bristol Institute of Public Affairs at:  
[bipa-email@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:bipa-email@bristol.ac.uk), or telephone:  
0117 954 5933 to reserve seats.

**GRAHAM SPITTLE**

A SMARTER PLANET: TECHNOLOGY  
INNOVATION AND WHY IT MATTERS  
**2 February 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**JONATHAN KESTENBAUM**

TRANSFORMING THE UK'S CAPACITY  
FOR INNOVATION  
**12 February 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**MONA SIDDIQUI**

CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS;  
HOPE OR CHALLENGE?  
**23 February 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**LEONARD SUSSKIND**

DARWIN AND THE COSMIC  
LANDSCAPE  
**26 February 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**KATE GILMORE**

SAFEGUARDING HUMAN RIGHTS  
**11 March 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**DAVID PUTTNAM**

THE CREATIVE BRAIN:  
'LEANING INTO THE LIGHT'  
**17 March 2009, 18.00-19.00**

**DANIEL C DENNETT**

WHAT DOES MY BODY NEED ME FOR?  
THE ROLE OF HUMAN INTELLIGENCE  
**20 March 2009, 18.00-19.00**

Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring programme of events throughout the year. In addition to our annual May Festival, we also run special events throughout the year. The festival, established in 2005, seeks to promote debate and discussion on a diverse range of topics. It welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, musicians, novelists and commentators on all subjects. The 2009 May Festival will focus on three key themes: 30 years of Thatcherism; Darwin and Darwinism; and the Arts and Sciences 50 years after C P Snow's Two Cultures lecture. For full programme details and to book, visit our website at: [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk).

## ADVANCE NOTICE OF APRIL EVENTS

A number of events have also been confirmed for April. Further details will be available shortly at [www.ideasfestival.co.uk](http://www.ideasfestival.co.uk). Be the first to hear by signing up to the RSS feeds on our 'What's on' page.

**2 April 2009**

**PETER SINGER**  
DARWIN AND THE ANIMALS

**23 April 2009**

**WILL HUTTON**  
THE SHIFTING GLOBAL ECONOMY

Festival partners, sponsors and supporters:

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West of England

**WATERSHED**

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

Bristol Festival of Ideas is part of Darwin 200 ([www.darwin200.org](http://www.darwin200.org)):

**BCDP culture | ideas | arts and sciences**



DARWIN200

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