

# Events for Everyone

---

2009

## Events suitable for a general audience – 2009

### Contents

Changing the way we live.....	3
Consuming children: the battle for children's minds .....	3
Don't shout at the telly, change the message on it! .....	4
Evidence matters: towards informed professionalism for education.....	4
Experiencing outdoor play with 'natural' elements .....	4
Exploring food, connecting communities .....	5
Feeding the future city .....	5
Food for thought in the 21st century.....	5
Grandparenting: the challenge of "being there" and not "interfering" .....	6
How does inflation affect different people?.....	6
How to be creative .....	6
Just an ordinary Scottish family? .....	6
Lincoln and Darwin: live for one night only .....	7
Literacy: a skill for life .....	7
Memoryshare: sisters and brothers .....	7
Narratives of ageing .....	8
Natural burial: do we need a headstone? .....	8
Options for a new Britain.....	8
People, plants, food and film .....	9
Public service reform: next steps .....	9
Re-engaging citizens in democratic politics .....	9
Science meets the eye! .....	10
Street arts: people and places at play .....	10
Stories about Birmingham .....	10
Spiritual machines? Debating the moral dimensions of new technologies.....	11
Talent and autism.....	11
The 2008 crash and the future of the global economy.....	11
The big green quiz .....	11
The 'Credit Crunch': consequences for UK households.....	12
The economic crunch: gender equality in hard times .....	12
The 'S' factor: school sustainability competition .....	12
The social life of plants.....	13
What can social science do for the new president of the USA? .....	13
What do psychological scientists do? .....	14

What's so social about social enterprise? .....	14
What's social about sport?.....	14
Young people's festival of participation research .....	15

**Changing the way we live**

Venue: Great Hall, Cardiff University Students Union, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3QN  
Thursday 12 March 11.00-15.00

'Changing the way we live' is a one day sustainability fair with demonstrators from a wide variety of research institutions, NGOs, environmental charities, Local Authorities, community groups and student bodies. The fair will involve displays, demonstrations, interactive stands and ideas on how we can all take actions to change the way we travel, eat, buy and sell.

**Further Information:**

Website: [www.brass.cf.ac.uk](http://www.brass.cf.ac.uk)

Organised by: BRASS Centre

**Consuming children: the battle for children's minds**

Venue: Guildhall, High Street, Bath, BA1 5AW  
Friday 6 March 16.30 – 17.30

How resilient are children to constant media bombardment? Can parents' resist 'pester power'? Are over-anxious parents creating 'cotton-wool kids'? Should we trust techno-savvy children to cope?

Speakers include:

- Dr Helene Guldberg, author Reclaiming Childhood – freedom and play in an age of fear; co-founder and Director, online current affairs publication spiked; lecturer in developmental psychology with the Open University and the US study abroad centres, CAPA and IES
- Dr Agnes Nairn, co-author (with Ed Mayo) Consumer Kids – How big business is grooming our children for profit; academic researcher and writer based in Bath.
- Sue Palmer, author of best-selling book Toxic Childhood: how modern life is damaging our children... and what we can do about it and Detoxing Childhood, a practical handbook for parents.
- Chair: Claire Fox, Director, Institute of Ideas; panelist, BBC Radio 4's Moral Maze

The ESRC is making available 50 FREE tickets for school, FE and HE students (pre-registration necessary from Bath Festivals Box Office)

**Further information:**

Website: <http://www.instituteofideas.com/> or [www.bathlitfest.org.uk](http://www.bathlitfest.org.uk)

Organised by: Institute of Ideas for the Bath Literature Festival

**Don't shout at the telly, change the message on it!**

Venue: Newcastle University, Claremont Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU  
Saturday 14 March 9.00-16.00

The Great Debate / WORLDwrite workshop on documentary-making, the role of media, and environmental issues. This exciting day will include film showings, discussion and a news-making workshop: thought provoking debates will interrogate inconvenient untruths about climate change, explore the influence of the media, and ask some hard questions about development.

**Further information:**

Website: <http://thegreatdebate.org.uk/GDDSE4.html>

Organised by: The Great Debate and WORLDwrite

**Evidence matters: towards informed professionalism for education**

Venue: Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG1 1QH  
Thursday 12 March 17.00-19.00

The ways in which knowledge about educational practice is produced and put to use is of the utmost importance. This event will discuss the status of education research and envisage a world where the creation and exploitation of sound evidence is encouraged and knowledge is routinely transformed for practical use. Confirmed speaker: Baroness Estelle Morris.

**Further information:**

Website: [www.cfbt.com/EvidenceForEducation](http://www.cfbt.com/EvidenceForEducation)

Organised by: CFBT Education Trust

**Experiencing outdoor play with 'natural' elements**

Venue: Millenium Square, Sheffield City Centre, Sheffield, S1 2PP  
Saturday 14 March 10.00-17.00

Outdoor play with elements of the 'natural' environment is good for children for the development of many different skills. It is also *fun*. This event will allow children visiting the centre of Sheffield on Saturday 14 March 2009 to experience elements of the 'natural' environment for play.

**Further information:**

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/>

Organised by: Department of Landscape, the University of Sheffield

### **Exploring food, connecting communities**

Venue: Clore Education Centre, British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG  
Sunday 8 March 10.30-16.30

Food is everywhere, on TV programmes, in kitchens, ads, local markets, and gardens. Food has regional and international importance and appeal. But how much do we know about the UK food initiatives happening in our own backyards? This unique event brings together chefs, producers, social scientists, slow food movement activists and national organisations, to talk about their projects, providing hands on learning activities, materials and food to entice our involvement in various food communities. Free (includes food and drinks).

#### **Further information:**

Website: <http://www.therai.org.uk/> or <http://www.britishmuseum.org/>

Organised by: Nafisa Fera (Education Officer) at the Royal Anthropological Institute in partnership with the British Museum

### **Feeding the future city**

Venue: The Pavilion, 12A Harbourside, Bristol, BS1 5JE  
Wednesday 11 March 18.30-20.30

How will we feed our cities beyond the age of cheap oil? Could we adapt urban infrastructures to 'grow our own'? Hear how designers and communities are leading a new Green Revolution. Presentations from key players in urban design, cultural geography and the urban growing community, followed by a debate.

#### **Further information:**

Website: [www.architecturecentre.co.uk](http://www.architecturecentre.co.uk)

Organised by: The Architecture Centre

### **Food for thought in the 21st century**

Venue: ICOSS, 219 Portobello, Sheffield, S1 4DP  
Monday 9 March 18.00-20.00

"Food for thought in the 21st century" features a lecture by Prof Peter Jackson, an expert on food and eating practices, followed by a discussion on food with representatives from Rotherham's Ministry of Food. A drinks reception concludes the event.

#### **Further information:**

Website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/icoss](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/icoss)

Organised by: ICOSS, University of Sheffield

### **Grandparenting: the challenge of "being there" and not "interfering"**

Venue: Virtual

Friday 6 March - Sunday 15 March

This online exhibition takes a look at the highs and the lows of being a grandparent. We'll show you the results of recent research into what it's like being a grandparent today, and you can tell us whether your experience fits this picture in our online quiz.

#### **Further information:**

Website: [www.manchester.ac.uk/grandparenting](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/grandparenting)

Organised by: Realities, University of Manchester

### **How does inflation affect different people?**

Venue: Institute for Fiscal Studies, 7 Ridgmount Street, London, WC1E 7AE

Monday 9 March 12.30-14.00

This presentation will look at what inflation means and how it is calculated. We will also discuss the effects of inflation on different demographic groups in the population and the trends over time.

#### **Further information:**

Website: [www.ifs.org.uk](http://www.ifs.org.uk)

Organised by: Institute for Fiscal Studies

### **How to be creative**

Venue: The Showroom Café, Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2BX

Thursday 12 March 19.00-21.00

Stuck for a new idea? Come and get some tips on how to be more creative. In this workshop, researchers from different disciplines will tell you about creative thinking techniques, the lives of successful artists and how nature inspires innovations in science and engineering. Try out some creative activities too!

#### **Further information:**

Organised by: The University of Sheffield and Café Scientifique

### **Just an ordinary Scottish family?**

Venue: Virtual

Friday 6 March - Sunday 15 March

An interactive quiz using data from the Growing Up in Scotland study (GUS) to find out how your family compares to other Scottish families. Nine simple questions cover topics such as family type and size, childcare and diet.

#### **Further information:**

Website: [www.growingupinscotland.org.uk](http://www.growingupinscotland.org.uk)

Organised by: CRFR, the University of Edinburgh

**Lincoln and Darwin: live for one night only**

Venue: Science Oxford, 1-5 London Place, St Clements, Oxford OX4 1BD  
Tuesday 10 March 19.30-21.30

In a staged play, Abraham Lincoln and Charles Darwin come back to life to discuss, in talk show format, how their views bear (or not) on contemporary issues surrounding the nature of humanity, race, religion, conflict and other topics with which they struggled at a political and a scientific level.

**Further information:**

Website: [www.scienceoxford.com](http://www.scienceoxford.com)  
Organised by: Science Oxford

**Literacy: a skill for life**

Venue: Finsbury Library, St John Street, London, EC1V 4NB  
Thursday 12 March 17.30-20.00

Literacy is a skill for life. In this discussion event, a researcher, a children's author, a teacher and a neuroscientist will address issues surrounding how children learn to read, why some have difficulty in doing so, what teaching methods work best, and what sort of role models and books encourage reading.

**Further information:**

Website: <http://www.city.ac.uk/lcs/Copy%20Of%20events2008.html>  
Organised by: City University

**Memoryshare: sisters and brothers**

Venue: Virtual  
Friday 6 March - Sunday 15 March

An online display and collection of sibling memories in a collaboration between universities and the BBC. <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/families/brothersandsisters> contains examples of memories submitted by nearly 800 people during the 2008 ESRC Festival Week. There is a reciprocal link to <http://bbc.co.uk/dna/memoryshare/brothersandsisters/> where people can post further memories of their relationships with their sisters and brothers.

**Further information:**

Organised by: Timescapes Siblings project, London South Bank University  
and Timescapes Oldest Generation project, The Open University

## **Narratives of ageing**

Venues:

- National Waterfront Museum, Oystermouth Road, Swansea, SA1 3RD  
Tuesday 10 March 10.00-16.00
- Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Penglais Road, Aberystwyth, SY23 3DE  
Saturday 14 March 10.00-16.00

We showcase a project involving both young people (14-19 years) and older people, exploring personal views of ageing through the use of digital stories. These accounts can be viewed in the context of research findings on old age from Swansea University that will be displayed in poster format.

### **Further information:**

Organised by: Swansea University, Institute for Health Research

## **Natural burial: do we need a headstone?**

Venue: Long Gallery and Winter Gardens, Millennium Gallery, Arundel Gate, Sheffield, S1 2PP

Saturday 14 March 13.30-15.00

Natural or woodland burial is frequently presented in the media as the choice of non religious, alternative, eco types where the body is placed in a cardboard box and buried beneath a tree. Presentations from researchers and burial ground managers will reveal that the reality is far more complex.

### **Further information:**

Website: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/landscape/>

Organised by: University of Sheffield, School of Education, Departments of Landscape and Sociological Studies

## **Options for a new Britain**

Venue: Sixty One Whitehall, London, SW1A 2ET

Thursday 12 March 2009 18.00-20.00

What are Britain's achievements in the last decade? And what are the big choices that face us for the next decade? These are just some of the questions covered by Options for a New Britain, a Festival of Social Science event to meet the authors, discuss the findings and receive your copy of the accompanying book.

### **Further information:**

Organised by: Public Services Programme and ESRC

**People, plants, food and film**

Venue: Upstairs at the Royal Anthropological Institute, 50 Fitzroy St, London, W1T 5BT  
Tuesday 10 March 18.30-20.30

Three evening film screenings will resume important discussions raised in the RAI's two main ESRC events: Exploring Food, Connecting Communities and The Social Life of Plants. Participants will enjoy anthropological films such as 'Betelnut Bisnis' in Papua New Guinea, and Traditional Healing in Venezuela. Alongside the films there will be a Q&A session with the anthropologist/filmmaker and a chance to interact in an intimate setting over delicious snacks and drinks. Free (includes snacks and drinks).

**Further information:**

Website: <http://www.therai.org.uk/>

Organised by: Nafisa Fera (Education Officer) and Susanne Hammacher (Film Officer) at the Royal Anthropological Institute

**Public service reform: next steps**

Venue: Brunel Boardroom, British Empire and Commonwealth Museum, Bristol, BS1 6QH  
Friday 6 March 10.30-16.30

With tighter budgets and ever increasing expectations, getting value for money from public services is as important as ever. This seminar will present the views of leading researchers, front line service managers and policy makers. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions.

**Further information:**

Website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/cmpo/events/workcurrent.html>

Organised by: Centre for Market and Public Organisation, University of Bristol

**Re-engaging citizens in democratic politics**

Venue: Showroom Cinema, Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 3BX  
Thursday 12 March 18.00-19.30

This event brings together Professor Colin Hay (author of Why We Hate Politics), Professor Gerry Stoker (author of Why Politics Matters) and David Blunkett, MP to discuss the sources of political disaffection and what might be done to re-engage citizens in democratic politics.

**Further Information:**

Website: [www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/politics)

Organised by: Department of Politics, University of Sheffield

**Science meets the eye!**

Venue: Moorland Centre, Peak District National Park Authority, Hope Valley, Derbyshire, S33 7ZA

Friday 6 March - Sunday 15 March 10.00-15.30

Science meets the eye! is an art exhibition celebrating the role of upland research in the Peak District. It brings scientific data, from many of the top British Universities, to life through photographs and computer imagery based on research projects that affect everyone's everyday lives eg flooding and climate change.

**Further information:**

Website: [www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk](http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk)

Organised by: Moors for the Future Partnership

**Street arts: people and places at play**

Venue: Kendal College, Milthorpe Road, Cumbria, LA9 5AY

Friday 13 March 11.00-15.30

This event explores the phenomenon of Street Arts, which from 2009 will be the focus of a major four-year Olympic Legacy Trust programme across Cumbria. It asks why spectacles like La Machine in Liverpool and Mintfest in Kendal have captured the public imagination and how we can understand their wider benefits.

**Further information:**

Website: [www.cresc.ac.uk](http://www.cresc.ac.uk)

Organised by: ESRC Centre for Research on Socio-cultural Change, University of Manchester

**Stories about Birmingham**

Venue: Library Theatre, Birmingham Central Library, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham, B3 3HJ

Friday 13 March 12.15-13.45

We tell three stories of Birmingham and its people: Who are the new Brummies? How has Longbridge responded to the MGRover closure? Which ordinary citizens made a difference to Birmingham? Through these stories we show how social scientists work and help us understand the society in which we live.

**Further Information:**

Website: [www.bham.ac.uk](http://www.bham.ac.uk)

Organised by: College of Social Sciences, University of Birmingham

**Spiritual machines? Debating the moral dimensions of new technologies**

Venue: Durham University, Department of Geography, Durham University, Durham, DH1 3LE

Monday 9 March 19.00-21.30

Public responses to new technologies are often expressed using spiritual and moral language. Concepts drawn from faith-based traditions thus operate as resources for understanding the transformative effects of new technologies. The Spiritual Machines event will be an interactive public discussion of the moral dimensions of new technologies and broader public engagement with technological innovation.

**Further information:**

Website: [www.geography.dur.ac.uk/projects/spiritual](http://www.geography.dur.ac.uk/projects/spiritual)

Organised by: Durham University

**Talent and autism**

Venue: The Royal Society, Carlton House Terrace, London, SW1Y 5AG

Thursday 12 March 18.30-20.00

Extraordinary talent remains an unexplained puzzle. Are great artists fundamentally different from the rest of us? Is talent mainly nature or nurture? Is there a price to pay for exceptional ability? One key to the puzzle might be provided by the raised incidence of exceptional talent in individuals with autism.

**Further Information:**

Website: [www.britac.ac.uk/events](http://www.britac.ac.uk/events)

Organised by: The British Academy and the Royal Society

**The 2008 crash and the future of the global economy**

Venue: Strathclyde Suite at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 2 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, G2 3NY

Wednesday 11 March 18.00-20.00

How did we end up in such a dramatic financial crisis at the end of 2008 and what are the implications for the future operation of the global system? This event offers the public an opportunity to discuss these issues with experts in an accessible and interactive way.

**Further information:**

Organised by: World Economy and Finance Programme

**The big green quiz**

Venue: Parliament Street, York city centre

Saturday 14 March 11.00-16.00

Everyone is welcome to stop by the Big Green Quiz stall in York city centre. Take our fun quiz, find out how green you really are, and come away with a set of helpful tips on how to save money while enjoying a more environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

**Further information:**

Organised by: Department of Social Policy and Social Work, University of York

**The 'Credit Crunch': consequences for UK households**

Venue: Newcastle Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE99 2BN  
Wednesday 11 March 17.00-19.00

The 'credit crunch' is already having material effects on households that will deepen in the coming months. Households are experiencing a reassessment of their creditworthiness that impacts on their capacity to access consumer credit. Limitations on mortgage products and higher interest rates also create challenges for home-owners. Thus, in policy terms, new patterns of financial exclusion and the sustainability of home-ownership are crucial issues coming to the fore. Developed in partnership with The Great Debate, this event will feature a series of short contributions from Professor Susan Smith (Durham), an ESRC Fellow whose interests include the housing and mortgage markets; Professor Mark Stephens (York), whose research explores the relationships between social security, labour market and housing systems; and Dr Lavinia Mitton (Kent), who counts family finances and financial inclusion/exclusion among her interests. Chaired by Dr Paul Langley (Northumbria), the majority of the session will be given over to discussion, with speakers addressing questions tabled by members of the public both online, and on cards provided on the evening.

**Further information:**

Website: <http://esrcsocialscienceweekcreditcrunchdebate.wordpress.com/>  
Organised by: School of Arts and Social Sciences, Northumbria University

**The economic crunch: gender equality in hard times**

Venue: Queens College, Silver Street, Cambridge, CB3 9ET  
Friday 6 March 13.00-16.30

The current financial crisis has widespread consequences for all parts of British society. It does not only affect bankers in London, but also low-wage workers struggling with mortgage payments. Against this background, the seminar looks at issues such as low pay, job security and household finances from a gender perspective.

**Further information:**

Website: <http://www.genet.ac.uk/Events/Festival2009/index.html>  
Organised by: ESRC Gender Equality Network (GeNet) University of Cambridge

**The 'S' factor: school sustainability competition**

Venue: Aberdeen Business School, Aberdeen, AB10 7QE  
Wednesday 11 March 18.45-21.00

Senior school pupils from the North of Scotland have been invited to devise a policy to encourage behavioural change in some aspect of sustainable practice. Finalists will showcase their ideas to a distinguished panel of judges and a sizable audience at an event hosted by the Robert Gordon University.

**Further information:**

Website: [www.rgu.ac.uk/sfactor](http://www.rgu.ac.uk/sfactor)  
Organised by: The Robert Gordon University

**The social life of plants**

Venue: Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Surrey, TW9 3AB  
Saturday 7 March 11.00-16.00

How are the lives of people and plants connected around the world? Through films, talks, and hands on learning activities, anthropologists and ethnobotanists will demonstrate the valuable interdependence between people and plants. Participants will be able to explore how this relationship affects current concerns such as conservation, climate change, biodiversity and complementary medicine. Free (includes food and drinks).

**Further information:**

Websites: <http://www.therai.org.uk/> or <http://www.britishmuseum.org/>

Organised by: Nafisa Fera (Education Officer) at the Royal Anthropological Institute in partnership with the British Museum

**Visualising social identities and action: lives in Britain today**

Venue: The Workstation, Paternoster Row, Sheffield, S1 2BX  
Saturday 7 March - Sunday 15 March (closed on 8 March) 10.00-15.00

This exhibition represents collaboration between the ESRC Identities and Social Action programme and the photographer Chris Clunn, who was commissioned to work with seven research project teams, including one working with young Somalis in Sheffield, to portray the complexity and diversity of identities and everyday lives in the UK.

**Further information:**

Organised by: University of Sheffield

**What can social science do for the new president of the USA?**

Venue: The British Library, Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB  
Monday 9 March 18.30-20.00

An eminent transatlantic panel of five speakers considers the question "What can social science do for the new President of the USA?". The panel members will discuss key challenges and issues and add a social science perspective. The discussion will be highly topical as the Obama Administration will only be 50 days into its term of office and so policy in many areas will not yet be fully formed.

**Further information:**

Organised by: Professor Philip Davies, The Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library

**What do psychological scientists do?**

Venue: University of Manchester, Chemistry building, M13 9PL  
Wednesday 11 March 13.30-16.00

What do scientists working in the Psychological Sciences do? Most people do not know about the breadth of research and work carried out in this area. Our event asks researchers, from the School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester to present aspects of their working life to children aged 14+.

**Further information:**

Organised by: Dr Karen Lander, Dr Ellen Poliakoff and Dr Louise Connell

**What's so social about social enterprise?**

Venue: The Architecture Centre, Narrow Quay, Bristol, BS1 4QA  
Monday 9 March 15.00-19.00

Social enterprise has recently gained popularity as a business model, a career choice and a means of achieving social change. This event explores what is meant by a social enterprise, and addresses the challenges of combining profit with social goals. Presentations and discussions will be led by prominent social entrepreneurs.

**Further Information:**

Organised by: University of Bristol

**What's social about sport?**

Venue: Millennium Suite, Sheffield United Football Ground, Cherry Street, Sheffield, S2 4SU  
Monday 9 March 12.30-18.00

Sport is a massive global phenomenon as well as being fun. This multi-media event with a presentation by David Goldblatt, web links, recorded conversations with people who work in sport and examples of teaching materials gives some ideas about why sport matters, to whom and why.

**Further information:**

Website: <http://www.cresc.ac.uk/> <http://www.open.ac.uk/socialsciences/diasporas/index.htm>

Organised by: CRESC, (Open University and Manchester University research centre)  
AHRC Tuning In Sports Across Diasporas

### **Young people's festival of participation research**

Venue: Millennium Stadium, Westgate Street, Cardiff, CF10 1JA  
Wednesday 11 March 10.00-14.00

The event is an exhibition in the Millennium Stadium. Researchers who have conducted research with, by or about children will engage children and young people in activities that enable them to understand the methodology and findings, take part in sample research activities and express their views on the research process.

#### **Further information:**

Website: <http://www.cf.ac.uk/socsi/newsandevents/events/11032009.html>

Organised by: Cardiff University, The Children's Commissioner's Office and Children in Wales