

The British Academy

**A free festival
of ideas for
curious minds**

21-22 June 2019

CURIOUS?

BA | **SUMMER
SHOWCASE
2019**

W

elcome to the British Academy, the home of the humanities and social sciences, for our annual Summer Showcase.

Here you will meet the brightest minds in archaeology, politics, art history and more, and explore eclectic exhibits designed to educate and inspire – from why our ancestors started to invent stone tools, to how 3D printing is changing lives.

Our subjects have something for everyone – they help us understand where we have come from, where we are, and where we are going. I very much hope that our array of exhibits, talks and performances reflects this and that you will leave informed, entertained and inspired.

The Summer Showcase is just one of the many ways the British Academy seeks to open up the humanities and social sciences. Do look online at thebritishacademy.ac.uk for podcasts, blogs, and information about our other free events taking place across the country.

I hope you enjoy your time with us,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Cannadine'.

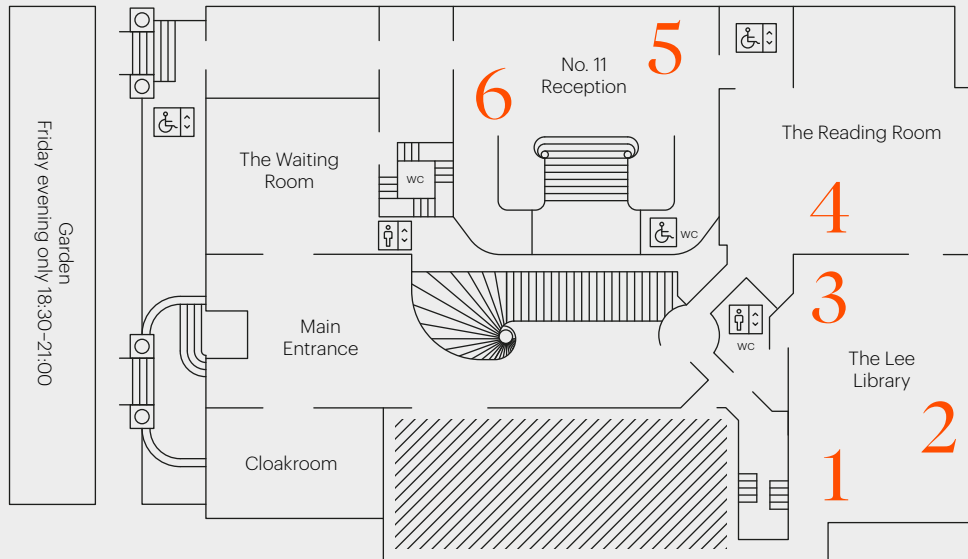
Professor Sir David Cannadine
President of the British Academy

Opening hours: Fri 21 June 10:00–16:00 Sat 22 June 11:00–17:00

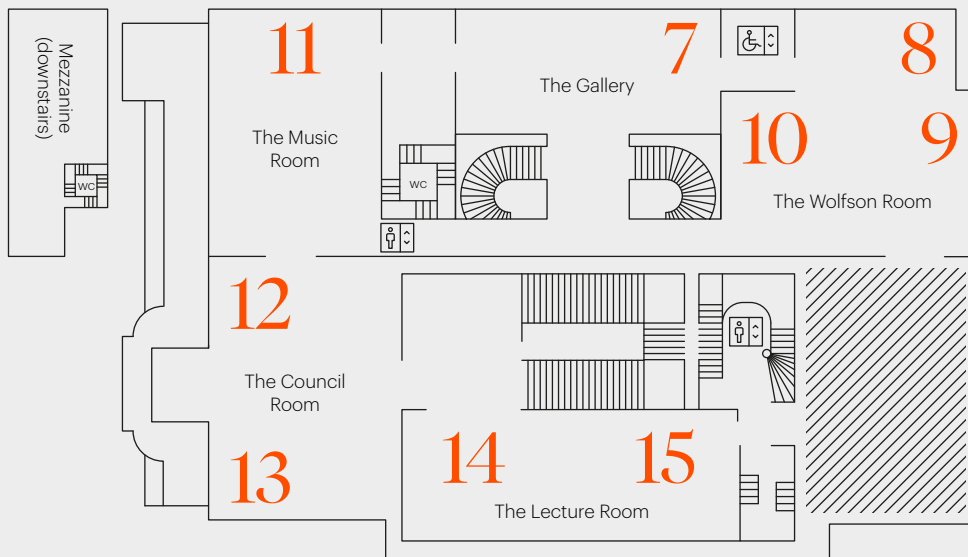
Showcase Late: Fri 21 June 18:30–21:00

Find our exhibitors

Ground floor



First floor



© Alison Coodle Brown, Courtesy of Egidio Chiaralle

Can artists' books transform the way we think about health, wellbeing and illness?

Since the 1980s, a growing number of book artists have used their craft to share stories about health, wellbeing and illness. These artworks give a voice to those living with disability, chronic illness or cancer, while challenging stigma and discrimination. But can they also help medical professionals to better understand their patients? Featuring multisensory works by contemporary artists, this exhibit explores the vital intersection between art and science. Handle artists' books, learn about the lives of the makers and craft your own book to take home.

Dr Stella Bolaki, University of Kent

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2016-2017, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Lee Library

What can Italian Renaissance art tell us about global trade?

In the Italian Renaissance, the expansion of trade led to objects from around the world making their way into European homes. These objects, which ranged from ceramics and glass to incense burners and metalwork, frequently featured in paintings of the time, including Andrea Mantegna's *Adoration of the Magi*. With a focus on Mantegna's masterpiece, this exhibit explores the objects found within the painting and asks what they can tell us about diplomacy, trade, collecting and cultural exchange during this period. Find out more about trade routes, immerse yourself in the sounds and smells of the Renaissance and step into the painting yourself to create your own interpretation of this iconic scene.

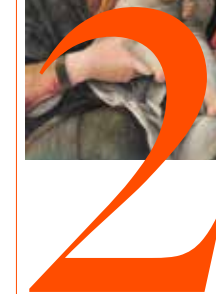
Dr Leah R Clark, The Open University

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2015-2016, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Lee Library



Image courtesy of the Getty's Open Content Program



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What does food mean to you?

Everybody has a story to tell about food. But can sharing these stories empower the most vulnerable people in society to gain more control over what they eat? Through working with marginalised groups, including people affected by homelessness, this exhibit explores how we can use creative activities to gain an insight into the needs, preferences and experiences of harder to reach audiences. Hear personal stories from project participants, contribute to a dynamic food collage, and share your own thoughts and feelings about food.

Dr Clare Pettinger, University of Plymouth

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2015, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Reading Room



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© Getty Images, Courtesy of Fox Photos/Stinger

What is philosophy for?

Philosophers G. E. M. Anscombe, Philippa Foot, Mary Midgley, and Iris Murdoch all graduated from the University of Oxford during WWII and went on to achieve great acclaim for their respective philosophical work. This exhibit offers you the chance to learn more about the philosophy and lives of the Wartime Quartet, and to write to Iris Murdoch, a prolific letter writer. Find out more about the work of these four great thinkers, and pose your own philosophical questions on a postcard to be in with a chance of receiving a reply from a living philosopher.

Dr Clare Mac Cumhaill, Durham University
Dr Rachael Wiseman, University of Liverpool

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2015-2016

The Lee Library

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What's in an accent?

Spoken English has many accents with huge variations found across the UK. We can easily spot an accent different to our own, but it is much more difficult to pin down the exact characteristics of speech that make us do so. How do we physically form words, and can this help us understand how changes in spoken language come about? Using ultrasound imaging techniques, see how your tongue moves when you speak, and give your thoughts on how you think accent and language can change generation to generation.

Dr Patrycja Strycharczuk, University of Manchester

Research award: British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship 2013, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

No. 11 Reception



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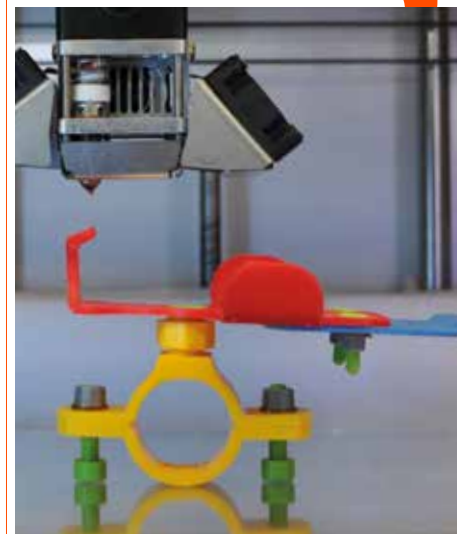
How is 3D printing changing lives?

3D printing technologies are constantly evolving, making digital designs a physical reality. As these technologies rapidly become accessible and affordable for all, more and more of us are using them on a personal as well as professional basis. What motivates individuals and companies to interact with this technology? Find out how and why 3D printing is being used by coffee growers, artists, and entrepreneurs and see a printer in action for yourself.

Dr Ahmad Beltagui, Aston Business School

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2017-2018, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

No. 11 Reception



© Ahmad Beltagui

© Patrycja Strycharczuk

Why did humans start inventing stone tools?

What prompted our ancestors to develop the first stone tools? Why did the types of stone tool we used evolve through time? And how do those early stone tools compare to how monkeys and apes use tools today? At this exhibit, you can learn how primates use stone tools and more about the design principles behind the earliest human-made stone tools. Test your ability to spot the difference between rocks, early tools and primate tools, then measure your muscle activity using different tools, to see for yourself which are the most energy-efficient.

Dr Alastair Key, University of Kent

Research award: British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship 2016, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Dr Tomos Proffitt, University College London

Research award: British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship 2017, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Gallery



© Tomos Proffitt

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© Cristina Leston-Bandeira

Could the public improve our laws?

At a time when many feel disengaged from parliamentary activities, this exhibit sets out to challenge the idea that people can't make a difference to the laws of a country. Through case studies, interactives and graphics, you'll see in clear, practical terms how you can make your voice heard. Learn more about how comments from members of the public can and have shaped contemporary laws and share your thoughts on a new policy draft.

At the end of the showcase, the researchers will share comments collected with interested MPs, keeping the conversation going and proving the importance of public engagement.

Dr Louise Thompson, University of Manchester

Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira, University of Leeds

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grants 2014-15

The Wolfson Room

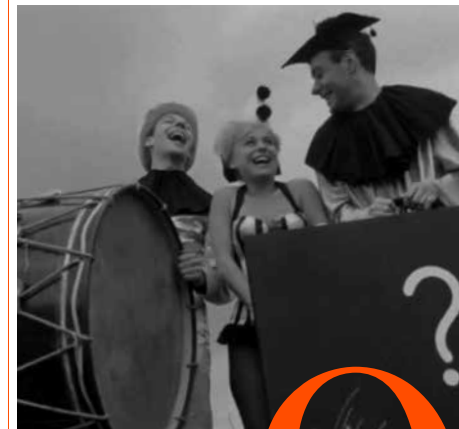
Did Londoners have more fun in the past?

In the 1960s, theatre director Joan Littlewood and architect Cedric Price developed a utopian vision for a 'Fun Palace' in London. Inspired by the lost Thameside pleasure gardens of centuries past, the Fun Palace was intended as a space where working-class Londoners could participate in the delights of the new age, play with technological gadgets and create their own art. To promote the idea, Littlewood produced a film called *Pleasure* (1964), featuring Victor Spinetti, Brian Murphy and Barbara Windsor as clowns, and captured the different ways Londoners enjoyed themselves at the time. Watch outtakes from the film and explore a recreation of the exhibition from its launch party, before adding your own thoughts on the possibilities for pleasure in London life today.

Dr Luke Dickens, King's College London

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2017

The Wolfson Room



© British Film Institute. Courtesy of Peter Rankin

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© Lucy Meredith. Copyright of Simon Hulme

What contribution have Yorkshire's female entrepreneurs made to the UK's economic and social life?

Get to know the stories of women who have started their own businesses in Yorkshire over the past seven decades, working in a huge range of different industries and hailing from diverse backgrounds. Has Yorkshire's industrial heritage played a part in encouraging these women to set out on their own paths? And how have the journeys of these women changed over time? This exhibit introduces these women in their own words through voice recordings, photographs and samples of the products they've created. Listen to their stories, then make your own contribution to the exhibition by adding your design to a quilt that will be created by a Yorkshire artist after the showcase.

Dr Hannah Dean, University of St Andrews

Research award: British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship 2015, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Wolfson Room

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© Thea Pitman

What does indigenous electronic art look like, and how should it be exhibited?

This installation brings together four interactive pieces made by Brazilian indigenous communities, along with a video about the way they were first shown at the Museum of Modern Art in Salvador. Listen to a contact-sensitive fishing net that recreates an ocean soundscape when touched; interact with projections of indigenous body painting motifs; venture inside a cocoon-like structure that illuminates in time with the rhythm of your pulse; talk to an earthenware pot that responds with indigenous songs and stories; and, most importantly, interact with the people who are present to exhibit their work.

Dr Thea Pitman, University of Leeds

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2017, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the 44th International Congress of Americanists Fund

The Music Room

What is the relationship between archaeology and the public?

For years, the small villages located along the newly established Pisidia Heritage Trail in Turkey have witnessed a steady drain of young people leaving the area to seek employment in cities. Yet they live in a spectacularly beautiful natural area, dotted with ruins dating back to the Greek and Roman times. Heritage specialists are working with local communities to generate socio-economic benefits from archaeological heritage. Using VR headsets, bring the splendour of the ancient remains back to life and watch short films from the region introducing the community's plans for the area.

Dr Lutgarde Vandeput, British Institute at Ankara (BIAA)

Research awards: British Academy Sustainable Development Programme 2016, supported by the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS); Cultural Protection Fund Large Grant Award, Safeguarding Archaeological Assets of Turkey, with funding from DCMS in collaboration with the British Council.

Dr Işlay Gürsu, British Institute at Ankara (BIAA)

Research awards: BIAA Cultural Heritage Management Postdoctoral Fellowship, with funding from the Headley Trust; Cultural Protection Fund Large Grant Award, Safeguarding Archaeological Assets of Turkey, with funding from DCMS in collaboration with the British Council.

The Council Room



© Lut Vandeput

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© Yafa Shanneik

How can art help refugee women tell their stories?

Refugee women from Syria and Iraq who have settled in new countries still face challenges in their everyday lives. In this project, women now living in the UK, Germany and Jordan narrate the life-changing events of war and migration they have lived through and the impact on their families through body-mapping, creating artworks, in collaboration with the artist Rachel Gadsden, that tell their stories. These pieces will be brought to life through live performance and music, with regular workshops explaining the process of body-mapping.

Dr Yafa Shanneik, University of Birmingham

Research awards: British Academy the Humanities and Social Sciences Tackling the UK's International Challenges 2017; Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL) Pilot Study Award 2018; British Academy Sustainable Development Programme 2018, supported by the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund.

All three awards are made possible due to funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

The Council Room

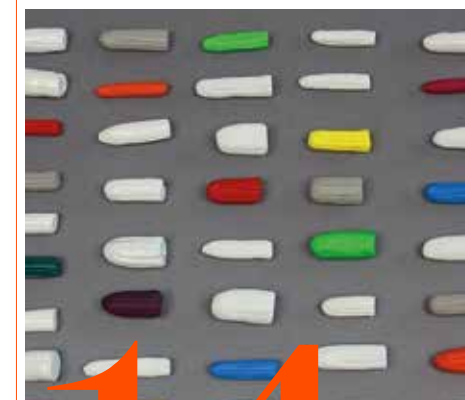
How can we challenge cultural attitudes about periods?

Throughout history, our attitudes to menstruation have been shaped by cultural, medical, and media representations. These contribute to the stigmatisation of menstruation, period poverty and harmful practices and restrictions that impact on the everyday lives of people who menstruate. Through their work in the UK and Nepal, this exhibit invites visitors to challenge preconceptions and misconceptions about periods. Explore and reflect on historical and contemporary ideas about periods, make your own activist badge and challenge age-old negative associations.

Dr Kay Standing, Liverpool John Moores University

Research award: BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant 2016, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

The Lecture Room



© Bee Hughes

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© Getty Images, Courtesy of James Morgan

What prevents people from accessing energy in cities in Mozambique?

Mozambique is rich in natural resources, with an abundance of fossil fuels and renewable energy sources. Yet supplies are often unreliable or insufficient, with most city dwellers having to combine fuels in ways that fit the local architecture and infrastructure. With a focus on Maputo, this exhibit offers an insight into what energy sources and appliances people are using to cook, light their homes and charge their phones. Through an installation and soundscape, experience everyday life in a Maputo home and find out more about the obstacles to energy access.

Professor Vanesa Castán Broto,
University of Sheffield

Research award: British Academy Sustainable Development Programme 2016, supported by the UK's Global Challenges Research Fund, with funding from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

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The Lecture Room



Talks and activities

Friday 21 June

Late
18:30–21:00

Experience an evening of performances, live music, DJ sets and talks at a special late-night view of our Summer Showcase. Drop in to explore the exhibits, listen to spoken-word poetry or simply relax with a cocktail at our themed bar.

Activities include Nikesh Shukla and Nikita Gill in conversation, Neolithic nibbles from AVM Curiosities and music from Balamii Radio and London-based Afro-fusion collective Nelson & Friends.

Saturday 22 June

Talks
12:30–12:40

The Reading Room
Thea Pitman

The Council Room
Ahmad Beltagui

The Wolfson Room
Leah Clark

13:00–13:10

The Reading Room
Vanesa Castán Broto

The Council Room
Alastair Key

The Wolfson Room
Clare Mac Cumhaill and Rachael Wiseman

Performances
14:00–14:20

The Council Room
Displaced voices

Featuring live art and music composed by Freddie Meyers, this performance shines a light on the refugee experience. Based on migration narratives – collected and explored by researcher Yafa Shanneik and artist Rachel Gadsden in collaboration with Syrian and Iraqi refugees – *Displaced voices* shows how refugees survive their harrowing migration journeys, and expresses the challenges and hopes of the diaspora, with powerful and evocative results.

The Wolfson Room
You call this pleasure!

A live performance inspired by the scripts from Joan Littlewood's lost film *Pleasure* (1964) and rabble rousing speeches that she gave to promote her vision for the Fun Palace. Performed by members of the youth theatre at Theatre Royal Stratford East, where Littlewood was founding Artistic Director, these short sketches ask us to consider what a more delightful urban future might entail.

Free, drop-in. All activities are on a first come, first served basis.

About the British Academy

The British Academy is a Fellowship of over 1,000 distinguished academics based in the UK and overseas.

Drawn from the humanities and social sciences, we look to understand many of the great questions facing humanity today.

We fund outstanding research for academics at key stages of their careers and are particularly proud to support the next generation of scholars.

We play a role in enriching public debate, helping to inform those who make important decisions in our society and shaping public policy. We also offer a place for anyone who shares a passion for our subjects and wants to discover more.

Visit our website to find out more about our Fellowship of over 1,000 leading academics: thebritishacademy.ac.uk

- 1. Tariq Modood MBE**
Professor of Sociology, Politics, and Public Policy, University of Bristol
- 2. Angela McRobbie**
Professor of Communications, Goldsmiths University London
- 3. Beatrice Webb**
Co-founder of the London School of Economics
- 4. Winston Churchill**
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, 1940–45 & 1951–55



With thanks

Thank you to our Fellows, exhibitors and the British International Research Institutes for their involvement in our annual Summer Showcase.

The British Academy is grateful for generous support from a range of partners, including Her Majesty's Government, individuals, charitable trusts and foundations, and companies, for its research programmes, policy work and other activities.

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