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# Sections

March 2024

The British Academy Lecture Series 2025-27: Paper 4

<b>This paper is for information</b>
<b>Purpose:</b>
This paper provides Sections with information on the Academy’s planned Lecture Series for 2025-27.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>
All Sections are now invited to nominate a lecturer for the 2025-27 British Academy Lectures programme to their Section Chair.
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<b>Financial or resource implications, and/or risks to consider</b>

**All Sections are now invited to nominate a lecturer for the 2025-27 British Academy Lectures programme.**

The British Academy’s flagship lecture programme showcases the very best scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. Delivered by outstanding academics from the UK and beyond, British Academy Lectures are aimed at scholars, students and specialists and will take place at locations across the UK. The programme incorporates the Academy’s endowed and historical lectures.

**Full details – including nomination guidance and information on endowed or historical lectures – is attached. Please do not send your nomination to your Section Chair before reading through the guidance.**

Each Section is asked to nominate a scholar to deliver a lecture in 2025-27 with the provisional timetable:

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**11-15 March 2024** March Sections week. Nominations open for the 2025-27 Lecture programme. Fellows are invited to make nominations via Section chairs.

**21 June 2024, 5pm** Fellows to email their lecturer nomination(s) to Section Chairs.

**12 July 2024, 5pm** Deadline for Sections Chairs should complete the lecture nominations form on behalf of their Section. Enquiries should be directed to the Events Team ([events@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:events@thebritishacademy.ac.uk)).

**August 2024** Events Team to collate nominations and circulate to the Communications and Engagement Committee.

**October 2024** Communications and Engagement Committee to review Section nominations and create a shortlist of CEC nominated lecturers.

**January 2025** Communications and Engagement Committee formally approves the final list of lecturers for the 2025-27 cycle.

**February 2025** Invitations are issued to lecturers by the Events Team.

**Spring/Summer 2025** Events Team liaise with lecturers and partners to coordinate the 2025-27 programme.

**September 2025** The 2025-27 lecture cycle begins.

Lectures taking place 2023-24 will be listed on our website ([thebritishacademy.ac.uk/events](https://thebritishacademy.ac.uk/events)), with more added over the coming weeks. We will also be promoting the lectures in the Fellows e-newsletter and via emails to Fellows regarding lectures in your local geographical or subject area.

Each lecture is followed by a reception - we actively encourage Fellows to attend those in their locality as we hope they can be networking opportunities to connect with other Fellows and members of the academic community.

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## What are the hallmarks of a British Academy Lecture?

- British Academy Lectures are **delivered by outstanding scholars**. They are given by those who have advanced new ideas in their area of scholarship and are considered

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to be at the forefront of their discipline.

- Our lectures are **given by excellent and engaging communicators**, who are skilled at presenting their ideas primarily to an audience of other scholars and specialists but also to a curious-minded general public who may wish to attend.
- Lectures serve **local, national and international audiences**. Held in national and regional hubs across the UK, lectures are also recorded and shared online (where possible). All lecturers are also invited, and encouraged, to submit an article for the *Journal of the British Academy*, allowing for further dissemination to the global academic community.
- British Academy Lectures provide **a forum for debate and engagement** with ample time provided for audience Q&A and a post-lecture reception hosted by local Fellows and Academy-funded researchers to allow guests to network with their peers and discuss the ideas they have heard in more depth. We're also looking to grow Fellows' engagement opportunities around lectures, working with the Fellowship team to organize.
- As the UK's national body for the humanities and social sciences, Lectures **represent the breadth of our subjects and share interdisciplinary perspectives**.
- Showcase **a diverse Academy** – embracing the richness of the academic community and celebrating diversity in all aspects. Lectures feature researchers from across the world at different career levels, providing a platform that reflects the breadth and depth of perspectives within our community.

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## **British Academy Lectures Nominations 2025-27: Guidance for Fellows**

**All Sections are now invited to nominate a lecturer for the 2025-27 British Academy Lectures programme.**

Held in partnership with universities across the UK, the British Academy's flagship lecture programme showcases the very best scholarship in the humanities and social sciences.

Delivered by outstanding academics from the UK and beyond, British Academy Lectures are aimed at scholars, students, specialists and a curious minded general public.

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### **Lectures Update**

#### **2021-23**

The Academy worked with 11 regional partners across the UK to deliver the 2021-23 lecture programme. A total of 1,562 people attended the events in person. Eight of the lectures were streamed online and were watched live by 580 people.

#### **2023-25**

The Events Team is currently finalising plans for the 2023-25 nominations cycle. Dates for 2023-24 can be found in Appendix B.

For the 2023-25 cycle, nominations were only received from 14 out of 21 Sections. For 2025-27, we encourage all Sections will take up this opportunity.

More detail on upcoming British Academy lectures – including links to book tickets - can be found on our website: [www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/events/lectures/](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/events/lectures/)

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### **Approved university partners**

The Communications and Engagement Committee (CEC) has approved nine partner universities for the 2025-27 nomination cycle spread throughout England, Northern Ireland and Wales. Further information about partnerships in Scotland can be found below.

When nominating, we ask Section Chairs to select from the below list of approved partners (or choose 'any):

- Cardiff University
- Coventry University
- Newcastle University

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- Queen’s University Belfast
- University of Bristol
- University of East Anglia
- University of Leeds
- University of Leicester
- University of Manchester

## Scotland

In January 2024, CEC approved a move to a rotational model for lectures in Scotland. The hope is that over nominations cycles, we will work with universities across the country, engaging with the academic communities in each area.

For this nomination cycle, if you would like to propose that lecture takes place in Scotland, we ask Section Chairs to suggest which university(s) would be preferred.

We cannot guarantee that a new partnership will be able to be established but we will try as far as possible to fulfil any requests.

## Process for proposing a lecture for 2025-27

Each Section is asked to nominate a scholar to deliver a lecture in 2025-27 with nominations opening in March 2024 Sections Week.

### **Step 1 - Fellows:**

Fellows should email lecture nomination(s) to your Section Chair by **Friday 21 June 2024, 5pm**

Fellows should provide the following information to your Section Chair:

- Name of nominated lecturer
- Nominee’s current institution
- Are they a Fellow or funded researcher? (*if known*)
- Why you have proposed this person? i.e. how do they fulfil the hallmarks of a British Academy Lecture? (*250 words or less*)
- Likely topic
- *Optional* - Link to a named Academy lecture series (e.g. the Raleigh Lectures on History) *See Appendix A*
- *Optional* - Preferred venue from the list of approved university partners - *See above*

### **Step 2 – Section Chairs:**

Section Chairs should submit first choice and a reserve nomination on behalf of their Section using the official Microsoft Form by **Friday 12 July 2024, 5pm**

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The Microsoft Form will be circulated directly to Section Chairs.

Section Chairs will collate suggestions from their Sections and decide how they will make the final decision on their nominees.

Sections may wish to circulate names to all Section members or Section Standing Committee members for a vote via email. Alternatively, Sections may choose to continue to have separate lecture committee and follow their established processes.

Section Chairs must submit two names – a first choice and reserve – with at least one of these names must be based in the UK. On the form will be an option to add a second reserve if they wish to.

Sections should not approach their proposed speaker(s) in advance of submitting their nomination.

In the Microsoft Form, Section Chairs will be asked to provide:

- Nominating Section
- Name of nominated lecturer (first choice and a reserve)
- Nominee’s current institution (at least one must be based in the UK)
- Are they a Fellow or funded researcher?
- Why this person has been chosen? i.e. how do they fulfil the hallmarks of a British Academy Lecture? (*250 words or less*)
- Likely topic
- *Optional* - Link to a named Academy lecture series (e.g. the Raleigh Lectures on History) *See Appendix A*
- *Optional* - Preferred venue from the list of approved university partners - *See above*

### **Step 3 – Communications & Engagement Committee (CEC)**

The Communications and Engagement Committee - made up of Fellows and external experts - will meet in October 2024 to review Section nominations.

The Committee will consider nominations within the shape of the programme as whole and will consider a number of factors such as:

- How well the proposal fits the hallmarks of the British Academy Lectures (outlined above)
- Diversity (in all its forms)
- Disciplinary balance i.e. between humanities and social sciences
- The geographical spread of speakers’ institutions (e.g. to ensure that the programme is not dominated by speakers based at Golden Triangle universities)
- Budget – there may need to be a limit on the number of speakers travelling internationally.

Where possible, CEC will try and select first choice nominees, allocating them to the preferred venue.

CEC reserves the right to select either the first choice or reserve nominee – or, if on the very rare occasion they feel neither suits the above criteria, they will ask the Section to reconsider

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their nomination. (*This usually only happens where a nominated speaker has recently taken part in the programme*).

If any slots remain unfilled, CEC will create a shortlist of potential nominees. Final confirmation of the 2025-27 lectures will take place at the CEC meeting in January 2025.

#### **Step 4 – Invitations**

Once the Committee has curated the programme, the Events Team will liaise with our lecture partners to assign the lectures to regional locations. The first lectures of this cycle will take place in the 2025-26 academic year.

If – on the rare occasion – an invited lecturer declines, we will move to the reserve nominee if approved by CEC. If neither nominee accepts, we will discuss with the nominating Section to ask for a third choice.

#### **Step 5 – Publishing**

After delivering their lecture, each speaker will be encouraged to submit an article for publication in the *Journal of the British Academy*.

The Journal Editorial Board will review each submission, work with the lecturer to decide whether to include in a future volume.

#### **FAQs**

When considering whom to propose, Sections are asked to bear in mind the above hallmarks and to carefully read these FAQs:

##### **a) How do I make a nomination?**

Fellows should submit their nominations to their Section Chair by **21 June 2024, 5pm**. Section Chairs should complete the nomination Microsoft Form (will be sent directly to Section Chairs) by **12 July 2024, 5pm**.

Further information is in the above ‘Process for proposing a lecture for 2025-27’ section.

For any questions relating to the nomination process, please email:

[events@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:events@thebritishacademy.ac.uk)

##### **b) Will each Section get to choose a lecturer in this two-year cycle?**

Yes – we allocate enough spaces within the programme for each Section to submit a lecturer for each two-year cycle.

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**c) My Section represents more than one subject, can each subject nominate a lecturer?**

It depends - we are hoping all Sections take up the opportunity to nominate a lecturer for this cycle which would limit one lecturer per Section.

If this is the case, we would suggest rotating each 2-year cycle, e.g. 2025-27 subject A, 2027-29 subject B etc. but each Section can decide how they want to manage it.

If some Sections do not submit a nomination, there may be an opportunities for a second lecturer to be considered in this cycle, but that decision would lie with the Communications and Engagement Committee.

**d) Can our lecture be badged as one of the Academy's historic named / endowed lecture series?**

Yes. Where a selected lecture matches the remit of one of the Academy's existing historic series, the Communications and Engagement Committee will agree that the event should also bear that name. For example:

The British Academy Lectures: The Radcliffe Brown Lectures in Social Anthropology  
*For an anthropology and archaeology of freedom by Prof David Wengrow*

Please refer to Appendix A for the full list of endowed lecture series.

**e) Our Section does not have a historic endowed lecture series but used to be called the Lectures in [insert discipline] What will they be called now?**

All lectures will be called 'The British Academy Lectures'. If a Section would like their lecture to be organised in partnership with another organisation in addition to the approved university partner, the Section Chair should indicate this in their submitted proposal.

The Events Team will liaise with proposed partners after the Communications and Engagement Committee meeting. Where partnerships are agreed, lectures will be badged with the partner's name. For example:

The British Academy Lectures, in partnership with the British Psychological Society  
*Trust the people! On the psychology of authoritarian populism by Professor Stephen Reicher FBA*

**f) Can our lecture take place at the British Academy / in London / at another venue?**

Very unlikely. We have agreement with the approved lecture partners to deliver two lectures per cycle so we will be allocating nominations to these as the main priority. We encourage Section Chairs to select from the approved venues in the Microsoft Form.

A very limited number of lectures take place at the Academy due to pre-existing agreements – e.g. Schweich Lecture held over 3 nights and the Anna Morpurgo Davies lecture which is run in partnership with the Philological Society and includes a preceding committee meeting.



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If a Section feels there is an extremely strong case for holding a lecture at an alternative venue, there is a free text box at the end of the form for a case to be put forward. However, we can offer no guarantees and the decision will lie with the Communications and Engagement Committee – the priority will initially be to fulfil our obligations with our approved partners.

**g) Should Lecturers be a Fellow or funded researcher?**

Lecturers do not have to be a Fellow or funded researcher, and there are of course many reasons to look beyond our community. However, as our lectures are a means of showcasing the work of the Academy and one of the highest honours that Sections can bestow, we do ask that Fellows (both UK based and Corresponding) and funded researchers (such as our Mid-Career Fellows and Global Professors) are also considered.

**h) Can we propose an international speaker?**

The Academy has budget to host a small number of international speakers each year. If a Section wishes to nominate an international speaker as their first choice, they should nominate a reserve speaker who is UK-based in case a large number of Sections put forward international speakers.

**i) Should we approach our proposed lecturer in advance of submitting our nomination?**

Sections should ***not*** approach their proposed speaker in advance of submitting their nomination. This will prevent embarrassment if the proposed speaker is not selected in this cycle.

However, if the Section wishes to discreetly approach the person they are putting forward, to check that they would be keen in principle to present and to get an indication of the broad theme they would discuss, please be clear to the potential nominee about the stages of governance (e.g. the Communications and Engagement Committee has to ratify nominations and they have to ensure that the programme is run within budget, which might lead to some reserve candidates being selected). Official invitations ***must only*** be issued by the Academy's Events Team.

**j) Do we need to outline the focus of the lecture as part of our proposal?**

Precise topics are not necessary at this stage, but some indication of broad theme is useful as the Communications and Engagement Committee considers each nomination.

**k) Does the lecture topic have to complement the Academy's Policy themes?**

No. Lectures do not need to tie in with any of the Academy's wider themes, though alignment is welcome. Further information can be found here:

[www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/policy-and-research/](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/policy-and-research/)

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**l) Should we only propose lecturers who will deliver a traditional style lecture?**

Most British Academy Lectures will follow the traditional lecture model (a 45-minute lecture followed by chaired discussion and audience Q&A). However, Sections are welcome to put forward speakers who prefer more interactive ways of presenting their ideas, e.g. a Shakespeare scholar may wish to utilise actors to perform extracts from a play.

**m) Who are you expecting to attend each lecture?**

We see the main audiences for lectures to be Fellows, students, researchers and a curious-minded general public from the local area.

We hope each lecture will attract around 50-70 attendees and each will have wraparound activity of audience Q&A, drinks reception for all attendees and a private dinner for the speaker and key representatives from the university.

**n) Should we be selecting early career researchers?**

The Section needs to decide what they want to achieve with their lecture. They may, for instance, wish to highlight someone who is early in their career or to honour someone for lifetime achievement.

In either case, the primary factor should be whether the person meets the hallmarks – particularly that they are advancing new ideas and are at the forefront of their discipline.

**o) The ‘X’ lecture used to happen every year. Does this mean it will only take place every two years?**

It depends on the Lecture and how many Sections request for their lecture to be badged as one of the Academy’s named lecture series. For example, if H8, H9 and H10 all request for their lecture to be badged as the Raleigh Lectures on History, the lecture will take place more frequently.

The Form includes a place to specify preferred date / year so that each Section can request to host a named lecture every 2/3/4 years if they so wish.

**p) My Section has more than one historically endowed lecture attached to it. Can we make more than one nomination?**

You should make one first choice nomination per cycle and make a note within your Section to nominate a different one for the other named lecture series in the following cycle.

**q) How should we co-ordinate with other Sections who have traditionally ‘shared’ an historically endowed lecture with us?**

Section Chairs should liaise with each other (as is often the case at present).

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## APPENDIX A

### Named Lecture Series

There are 14 historical named lecture series which are currently active. Some of these include endowed funds which can be used towards the cost of delivering the lecture.

We encourage Sections to link their nominations to named lecture series, where possible.

Further information including past speakers can be found here:

[www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/events/lectures/listings/#named-lecture-series](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/events/lectures/listings/#named-lecture-series)

The purposes as described in founding documents are as follows:

#### 1. **Albert Reckitt Archaeological Lectures**

There is no requirement for a lecture in this fund. Rather that it is to be “used for the promotion of learning and education in the field of archaeology in such a manner in all respects as the Trustees in their absolute discretion think fit.” The lecture was first delivered in 1951.

#### 2. **Aspects of Art Lectures (Henriette Hertz fund)**

A lecture “on some problem or aspect of the relation of Art in any of its manifestations to human culture. Art, including Poetry and Music, as well as Sculpture and Painting”. The lecture was first delivered in 1916.

#### 3. **Chatterton Lectures on Poetry**

A lecture on a deceased English Poet, writing in English irrespective of nationality. It was first delivered in 1955. Please note, the age restriction (under 40) is no longer in place.

#### 4. **Elie Kedourie Memorial Lectures**

A Lecture “in modern history, preference being given to subjects in Middle Eastern or Modern European History”. The lecture was first delivered in 1996.

#### 5. **Elsley Zeitlyn Lectures on Chinese Archaeology and Culture**

A lecture “to support the understanding and appreciation of Chinese archaeology and culture”. The lecture was first delivered in 2001.

#### 6. **Keynes Lectures in Economics**

This lecture has no funding attached to it and therefore no founding documentation setting out the purpose. The lecture was first delivered in 1971.

#### 7. **Maccabaeian Lectures in Jurisprudence**

A lecture “in jurisprudence, in the widest usage of the term”. The lecture was first delivered in 1956.

#### 8. **Philosophical Lectures (Henriette Hertz fund)**

A lecture “on a philosophical problem or some problems of philosophy of Western or Eastern civilisation in Ancient or Modern times or discussions of theories of the Phenomena of life to Eternity”. The lecture was first delivered in 1914. From 1993 to

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2001, the lectures were converted into a series of symposia. The series of single lectures was revived in 2015.

#### 9. **Radcliffe-Brown Lectures in Social Anthropology**

This lecture was established by the British Academy and the Association of Social Anthropologists and is “for Social Anthropology”. The lecture was first delivered in 1972.

#### 10. **Raleigh Lectures on History**

A Lecture “on History”. The Academy has tended to rotate it between medieval, early modern, and modern topics. The lecture was first delivered in 1919.

#### 11. **Shakespeare Lectures**

A lecture on ‘some Shakespearean subject, philosophical, historical, or philological, or some problem in English dramatic literature and histrionic art, or some study in literature of the age of Shakespeare’. The lecture was first delivered in 1911.

#### 12. **Sir John Rhys Memorial Lectures (Celtic Studies)**

A lecture “in the field of Welsh or other Celtic studies”. The lecture was first delivered in 1925, and will mark its centenary in 2025.

#### 13. **Sir Israel Gollancz Memorial Lectures (Old/Early English)**

A “lecture on a subject connected with Old English or Early English Language and Literature or on a philological subject connected with the history of English, more particularly during the early periods of the language or on some cognate subjects or on some textual study and interpretation”. The lecture was first delivered in 1924.

#### 14. **Warton Lectures on English Poetry**

A Lecture on English Poetry. The lecture was first delivered in 1910.

In addition to the 14 named series, two further series are delivered in partnership:

#### 15. **Anna Morpurgo Davies Lectures**

In 2011, the British Academy and the Philological Society agreed to collaborate in organising a series of lectures. The lecture was first delivered in 2013, and subsequently named after Anna Morpurgo Davies Hon DBE, FBA (d. 2014), a former President of the Society.

#### 16. **Joint British Academy/British Psychological Society Lectures**

First delivered to mark the centenary of the British Psychological Society in 2001.

*NB: The **Schweich Lectures on Biblical Archaeology** are not considered part of this nomination process because they follow a different format – three lectures – and produce a book. They are governed by the Publications and Conferences Committee and the Schweich Committee.*

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## APPENDIX B

### 2023-24 Lecture dates

The following lectures are scheduled for the 2023-24 academic year. We strongly encourage Fellows to attend lectures in their local area. Following each event will be a drinks reception which offers opportunities for networking with other FBAs, Academy funded researchers and students / staff at the partner university.

More information can be found here: [www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/lectures](http://www.thebritishacademy.ac.uk/lectures)

If you are planning to attend any of the following, please email:

[events@thebritishacademy.ac.uk](mailto:events@thebritishacademy.ac.uk)

#### 7 December 2023 - Professor Sir Noel Malcolm FBA

*'Writing the history of early modern homosexuality' (Raleigh Lectures in History)*

Cardiff – available to watch here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gsYvdmHfoQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gsYvdmHfoQ)

#### 21 March 2024 - Dr Erica McAlpine

*'Versās: an experiment in evaluative criticism' (Chatterton Lecture)*

East Anglia

#### 22 March 2024 - Professor Hakim Adi

*'Affirming the history of African and Caribbean people in Britain'*

Leeds

#### 25 April 2024 - Professor Annelies Kusters

*'The sign language myth'*

Newcastle

#### 30 April 2024 - Professor Thomas Hylland Eriksen

*'Loss and recovery of diversity in the Anthropocene: a perspective from biosemiotics' (Radcliffe-Brown Lectures)*

Edinburgh

#### 9 May 2024 - Professor John Steele

*'The place of theory in Babylonian astral science'*

Leicester

#### 10 May 2024 - Professor David Willis

*'What social media can tell us about dialect variation and change?' (Anna Morpurgo Davies Lectures)*

Philological Society

#### 28 May 2024 - Professor Judith Carney

*'Planting resistance: botanical legacies of the African diaspora' (Lectures in Geography at the British Academy)*

Royal Geographical Society and Royal Botanic Gardens (Kew)