WE NEED TO TALK

Festival of debate

April - June 2019
...You are an agent of change.

A better world is possible. By taking the time to share, listen and understand each other, we can change the things that matter to each of us, together. Difference doesn’t have to mean division and success doesn’t rely on the failure of others.

Within our reach we have the ideas and the means to tackle the problems we all face. Many possible solutions already exist, but we need to act together. We need to learn how to make change. We need to be ambitious, loving and clever. We need to talk.

What you think and do matters. Now more than ever, we need to carry hope in our fists and remember that nothing about us, without us, is for us.

Welcome to the Festival of Debate 2019. Coordinated by Opus, the festival is a non-partisan city-wide programme of events that asks us to explore the most important social, economic, environmental and political issues of the day.

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www.weareopus.org
www.festivalofdebate.com
Tickets for Festival of Debate events are mostly available through our main ticket outlet Tickets For Good. To buy tickets for paid events or to sign up to attend free events visit festivalofdebate.com, click ‘Events’ and find the relevant link. All paid ticket prices are subject to a booking fee.

A guide to this year’s venues can be found at the back of this brochure. If you have any questions regarding ticketing, accessibility or how to get to venues, please contact hello@festivalofdebate.com
FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

DEMOCRACY, DATA AND ELECTION SCANDALS ft. SHAHMIR SANNI
Wed 24 April | 38 Mappin St, Workroom 3

THE LIFE, WORK & LEGACY OF HARRY LESLIE SMITH: IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN LESLIE SMITH
Thu 25 April | Barnsley Digital Media Centre

CLIMATEKEYS ft. ASAD REHMAN & LOLA PERRIN
Sat 11 May | Theatre Deli

AFUA HIRSCH: BRIT(ISH) – ON RACE, IDENTITY AND BELONGING
Mon 13 May | SU Auditorium

GEORGE MONBIOT & GEORGE MARSHALL: HOW TO BREAK THE SILENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE
Thu 16 May | SU Auditorium

JAMES O’BRIEN: HOW TO BE RIGHT
Sat 18 May | Pennine Lecture Theatre
ROGER McGOUGH: LIVE
Tue 21 May | Abbeydale Picture House

THE GUILTY FEMINIST: LIVE
Thu 23 May | City Hall

STEVE SILBERMAN: NEUROTribES
Sat 25 May | Charles St Lecture Theatre

PAUL MASON: CLEAR BRIGHT FUTURE
Wed 28 May | Pennine Lecture Theatre

JULIA UNWIN: POWER IN OUR HANDS?
Thu 30 May | The Circle

SHEFFIELD QUESTION TIME ft. MAGID MAGID & ASH SARKAR
Sat 1 June | Millennium Gallery

Photo: Tanya Rosen-Jones
HOUSING HORROR VS PEOPLE POWER
Tue 23 April | 7:30–8:30pm | Quaker Meeting House | Free
In association with ACORN Sheffield

ACORN Sheffield host a public conversation about the local impact of a national housing crisis and the ambitious ideas that could revolutionise housing in Sheffield. ACORN are campaigning to hold rogue landlords who profit from unsafe housing to account. Panel featuring Councillor Jim Steinke, decision makers, campaigners and tenants.

ILLEGALISED
Fri 19 - Sat 20 April | 7:45–9:15pm | Theatre Deli | £6.95–£9.07

“I would like to ask the British what visa they had when they ruled us for 150 years?” ILLEGALISED, from British–Romanian collective BÉZNA Theatre, is a journey through the Home Office’s human rights abuses against ‘the other’, exposing the immigration-industrial complex and the profit made from the illegalisation of human beings.

WORDLIFE: FESTIVAL OF DEBATE OPEN MIC ft. JACKIE HAGAN & AMY KING
Fri 19 April | 7:30–10:30pm | DINA | £6 / £4

An event celebrating some of the North’s most radical voices within poetry. Jackie Hagan is a multi-award winning poet, playwright and performer, who in 2018 became a Jerwood Compton Poetry Fellow and was nominated for a Women of the World Award for effecting social change using spoken word. To sign up for open mic email joe@weareopus.org.

DEMONSTRATION, DATA & ELECTION SCANDALS: HOW DO WE RESPOND?
Wed 24 April | 6:30–8pm | 38 Mappin St, Workroom 3 | Free
In association with The Crick Centre & The University of Sheffield

Digital campaigning is now normal, but recent elections have resulted in scandal. This event brings together Vote Leave whistleblower Shahmir Sanni, the author of the recent Electoral Reform Society report Reining in the Political ‘Wild West’: Campaign Rules for the 21st Century and Dr Kate Dommett (University of Sheffield) to explore the implications of online campaigning trends for democracy.

MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD
Thu 25 April | 6:30–8:30pm | Church of Christ in Darnall | Free

Join us for a conversation about how to make the voices of people from Darnall heard when decisions are being made in the city and in our neighbourhood. Councillor Jim Steinke, Cabinet Member For Neighbourhoods and Community Safety, will be joining us to get things started.

THE LIFE, WORK & LEGACY OF HARRY LESLIE SMITH: IN CONVERSATION WITH JOHN LESLIE SMITH
Thu 25 April | 6:30–8:30pm | Barnsley Digital Media Centre | £2

Barnsley-born Harry Leslie Smith had a tremendous impact through his writing and media appearances. His last book before his death Harry’s Last Stand achieved critical acclaim. His son John Leslie Smith joins Festival of Debate in conversation with LEP Board Member and Doctoral Researcher Laura IH Bennett to discuss the life, works and legacy of his father.

MANDATORY REDISTRIBUTION PARTY
Fri 26 April | 8–10:15pm | Regather Works | £7 / £6 / £4

Everyone’s favourite – and possibly the only – radical leftist live comedy show returns to Festival of Debate for a third year. Join Sean Morley and Jack Evans as they brave the classic comedy subject matter of late capitalism, the re-emergence of fascism and the inexorable descent into barbarism.

“At the end of the day, we can endure much more than we think we can.”
Frida Kahlo
**SAT 27 APRIL: DAY OF ACTION!**

**OUR DEMOCRACY HUB DAY**

*SAT 27 APRIL | 1PM-9PM | THE CIRCLE*

**DAY: SUGGESTED DONATION £5 | EVENING: £4/£3**

In partnership with Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS)

In the wake of the EU referendum it is clear that we have a democratic deficit in the UK – that a range of different voices with a host of genuine concerns are not being heard or enabled to speak to power effectively.

The Festival of Debate Our Democracy Hub Day explores some of these unheard voices – as well as the mechanisms by which those voices are able to engage in the democratic process – through a series of concurrent workshops and panel discussions. The day will culminate with a high profile panel discussion on new forms of local democracy, followed by a screening of the acclaimed documentary *Brexitannia* and a Q&A with director Timothy George Kelly.

1:30-2:15PM | WORKSHOP | WHAT DOES 21st CENTURY WORKPLACE DEMOCRACY LOOK LIKE?

Sheffield TUC explore workplace democracy, the role of unions and legislation in aiding workers. How much of a voice can workers exercise in contemporary employment, which is often characterised by low pay and insecure work?

1:30-2:15PM | WORKSHOP | DISABILITY AND DEMOCRACY IN HEALTHCARE

The government says it wants to create a society where disabled people can realise their aspirations and potential. In this workshop from Healthwatch Sheffield and Disability Sheffield we’ll explore the reality – the issues, challenges and opportunities – with people who are taking action.

1:30-2:15PM | WORKSHOP | BLACK HISTORY MONTH FOR DUMMIES, WHITE TEACHERS & EVERYBODY ELSE

In a multicultural population, why are educators not teaching a more multicultural curriculum? Melissa Simmonds, parent and founder of MistAught, believes that Black History benefits all children. Hear her story of helping her child’s school make Black History more personal to the communities around them.

2:30-3:15PM | WORKSHOP | A ‘FREE PRESS’ IS A CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY, BUT HOW CAN IT BE FREE IF IT ISN’T AVAILABLE TO ALL?

‘Don’t hate the media, become the media,’ said Jello Biafra. A workshop from Burngreave Messenger, exploring how to use written media to promote your campaign, creating engaging content for hyperlocal, social and mainstream media.

2:30-3:15PM | WORKSHOP | DIRECT ACTION GETS THE GOODS: HOW TO TAKE ON YOUR LANDLORD AND WIN

Join ACORN Sheffield for a short workshop and Q&A on the union’s highly effective, sometimes controversial, use of direct action against landlords and letting agents.

2:30-3:15PM | WORKSHOP | TRANSPORT POVERTY

Cycling currently accounts for just 2% of measured trips. Under 30% of households in Sheffield City Region don’t have a car, but with public transport changing routes and raising fares, many are in ‘transport poverty’. Join Cycle Sheffield to debate how to enable the majority to travel across Sheffield sustainably.

3:30-4:45PM | WORKSHOP | REBOOTING POLITICS

From health to housing, why is the government failing to tackle societal challenges? Unlock Democracy host this workshop exploring how to shake up stale politics, get big ideas heard and push for radical change – with a focus on action.

3:30-4:45PM | TALK | THE GENDER PAY GAP: ONE YEAR ON

The Women’s Equality Party discuss the gender pay gap: What can be done for women from all backgrounds to achieve parity with men? What challenges lie ahead after regulations in April 2018 requiring companies to reveal differentials in pay?

5-6:45PM | PANEL | RADICAL NEIGHBOURHOODS: HOW IS LOCAL DEMOCRACY CHANGING?

New forms of local neighbourhood democracy are emerging. From active citizens coming together on campaigns, to newly devolved forms of local authority. Featuring Jim Steineke (Sheffield City Council Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods), Nigel Slack (Active Citizen), Ruth Hubbard (It’s Our City) & Kate Faulkes (Head of Stronger Communities in Barnsley Council). Chaired by Maddy Desforges (Chief Exec of VAS).

7-9PM | FILM SCREENING | BREXITANNIA + Q&A WITH DIRECTOR TIMOTHY GEORGE KELLY | £4/£3

In association with Sheffield Doc/Fest

While referenda always divide people, Brexit did so in a manner unprecedented in modern British history. But underneath these binaries we find human beings whose individual stories influenced the outcome of this historic and perplexing vote. *Brexitannia* is a portrait of a democracy in all its impossible and ugly glory.
APRIL

**BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE**
Mon 29 April | 6-7:30pm | 108 The Moor | £2
Join Professor Sandy Halliday of the Gaia Group and author of *Sustainable Construction* for a discussion about how we could construct homes and other buildings that don’t cost us the Earth, or the health and wellbeing of their inhabitants, in a world of resource scarcity and climate change. Chaired by Natalie Bennett, former leader of the Green Party of England and Wales.

**HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER TO IMPROVE FIR VALE?**
Mon 29 April | 6:30–8:30pm | Fir Vale Community Hub | Free
What can people in Fir Vale do to improve the area and celebrate diversity? An open and constructive conversation with members of the community to discuss the area, how it has improved, the challenges it currently faces and the potential for shared, community-led solutions for change.

**GUY STANDING: UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME**
Tue 30 Apr | 6:30–8:30pm | The Circle | £5
In association with UBI Lab Sheffield
Guy Standing is co-founder of the Basic Income Earth Network and economic advisor to John McDonnell, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, who has been leading a working group exploring the feasibility of a Universal Basic Income (UBI) in the UK on behalf of the Labour Party. Standing presents his findings, along with details from his 2017 book, *Basic Income: And How We Can Make It Happen.*

**RICHARD WILKINSON: THE INNER LEVEL**
Wed 1 May | 6:30–8pm | The Diamond LT2 | Free
In association with Cohesion Sheffield & The Research Institute for Healthy Lifespan
The Spirit Level by Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett has had a huge effect on how we look at inequality since it was published in 2009, showing how more equal societies ‘almost always do better’. 2018’s follow up, *The Inner Level*, looks at how inequality affects individuals. A talk from Wilkinson, chaired by Prof. Alan Walker (University of Sheffield).

**NATIONALISATION: THE CASE FOR PUBLIC OWNERSHIP**
Wed 1 May | 6–8pm | The Octagon, Room 1 | Free
In association with Sheffield Marxist Society
The last 40 years of privatisation have been catastrophic for our public services. The collapse of Carillion is just one example. Join us for a panel discussion on how nationalisation can be achieved under a socialist government. Speakers include trade union leaders, Marxists and students.

**MY NAME IS RACHEL CORRIE**
Wed 1 - Sat 4 May | 7:45-9:30pm | Theatre Deli | £9.07-£11.19
March 2003. The Gaza Strip. 23-year-old Rachel Corrie stands between a Palestinian house and an armoured bulldozer. Based on the diaries and emails of the American activist, *My Name is Rachel Corrie* tells the story of her short life and sudden death, from the words she left behind. A panel discussion follows each performance, discussing the contemporary situation in Palestine.

**SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL: UTOPIA OR REALITY?**
Thu 2 May | 6–8pm | The Diamond LT6 | Free
In association with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures
Palm oil is almost everywhere – food, fuel and cosmetics – and its use leads to thousands of burnt forests and dead wildlife. So certified palm oil comes to the rescue, but how sustainable is it? This panel discussion explores the implications of palm oil certification on people, forests and wildlife. Speakers TBA.

For more information and ticket links, go to [festivalofdebate.com](http://festivalofdebate.com)
facebook.com/FestivalOfDebate | @FestOfDebate

“People say satire is dead. It’s not dead, it’s alive and living in The White House.”

Robin Williams
HAVING DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS
Wed 8 May | 10:30am–12:30pm | 108 The Moor | Pay As You Feel
In association with Who Is Your Neighbour & Cohesion Sheffield
How do we react? What do we say? Did we get it right? This session will look at those difficult conversations that can happen in everyday life. Leave with a few new techniques, some understanding of responses to difficult conversations and hear the experiences of others.

MINERS’ STRIKE TO GIG ECONOMY
Thu 9 May | 7–9pm | Quaker Meeting House | Free
In association with the Orgreave Truth & Justice Campaign and the Campaign For Press & Broadcasting Freedom (North)
There was a social contract developed at the end of World War Two: work hard and contribute to society, then society will take care of you. That contract died when Thatcher broke the miners’ strike in 1984–85. Economic decline over decades has led to the rise of humiliating zero-hour contracts with one-step-above-poverty wages. This meeting identifies the consequences and what can be done to change the situation.

THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FOOD & CLIMATE CHANGE
Thu 9 May | 6:30–8:30pm | Abbeyfield Park House, Community Room | Free
In association with Green City Action & Sheffield Climate Alliance
Our food supply and consumption is both a cause of and a solution to climate change. Join us for an evening hosted by Green City Action in partnership with the Sheffield Climate Alliance Food Group. Our presentation will help spark conversation exploring what we can do at a local level.

SAME SAME DIFFERENT
Thu 9 May | 7:45–8:45pm | Theatre Deli | £11.19–£13.31
SAME SAME DIFFERENT is a new verbatim play about adoption, identity and belonging, sharing stories gathered from adoptees living all over the world. Inspired by Naomi’s own experiences as a transracial adoptee, the play gives adoptees the opportunity to share their stories and reveal what it’s like to grow up in a family and community who might look very different to themselves.
In the face of overwhelming scientific evidence of man-made climate change, how do we take action to significantly reduce our impact on the world? The challenge can seem too big, too daunting, and while knowledge and understanding are important, just as important is a belief that we can change things for the better.

The Festival of Debate Our Planet Hub Day explores many related topics through a range of short concurrent sessions, before coming together for a concluding performance by pianist and climate activist Lola Perrin, featuring guest speaker Asad Rehman (Executive Director, War on Want).

**ALL DAY | STALLS** | From Sheffield Climate Alliance, Sheffield Against Fracking, Friends of the Earth and more.

**11:30AM–1PM | TURNING EARTH: VEGAN BREAKFAST CLUB**
Delicious hot and cold breakfast/lunch to fuel a day of discussion and activism. Suggested donation £10, but no-one will be turned away due to lack of funds.

**1:30–2:15PM | WORKSHOP | ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE**
Simple steps towards eco living and shopping. Hosted by The Bare Alternative.

**1:30–2:15PM | TALK | WHAT THE ACTUAL FRACK?**
How do you beat a government hell-bent on fracking? Talk and discussion with Frack Free South Yorkshire founder and science teacher, David Burley.

**1:30–2:15PM | TALK | OUR ARCTIC: AMPLIFICATION OF CLIMATE CHANGE**
Adrian Dye presents his research of rapidly retreating Arctic glaciers and the overall state of the Arctic, from declining reindeer herds to melting ice and breakdowns of the polar vortex.

**2:30–3:15PM | TALK | ARE ATTENBOROUGH-STYLE DOCUMENTARIES STOPPING SHORT OF THE TRUTH?**
Is it acceptable to paint a false picture of natural ecosystems for the sake of viewership, entertainment and ‘impartiality’? Join us at this interactive seminar where we discuss these issues.

**2:30–3:15PM | WORKSHOP | SO YOU WANT TO TAKE ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE?**
By supporting you to reflect on what matters most to you, this workshop will help you discover how to play your unique part in the growing movement to combat climate change.

**2:30–3:15PM | FILM | A PLASTIC OCEAN**
A screening of award-winning documentary A Plastic Ocean, followed by discussion on immediate solutions with Sheffield Friends of the Earth.

**3:30–4:45PM | PANEL | HOW TO BE HOPEFUL ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE**
Drawing on different expert perspectives to show that progress can and is being made on reducing carbon emissions and that there is hope that we can rise to this challenge if we all take part.

**3:30–4:45PM | TALK | A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY POLICY FOR YORKSHIRE**
Exploring a pioneering local hydropower scheme and presenting a Green Manifesto for Yorkshire for future low-carbon energy schemes.

**5–6.15PM | PANEL | CAMPAIGNING VS DIRECT ACTION: HOW FAR SHOULD WE GO IN THE FACE OF EXTINCTION?**
Featuring Asad Rehman (Executive Director, War on Want), Roscoe Blevins (imprisoned for peaceful anti-fracking direct action in 2018), and representatives from Sheffield Against Fracking and Extinction Rebellion.

**8–9.30PM | MUSIC & TALK: CLIMATE KEYS, FT. ASAD REHMAN & LOLA PERRIN | £6/£5**
Music, talk and audience dialogue in response to the climate crisis, featuring specially-composed piano pieces performed by Lola Perrin in collaboration with guest speaker Asad Rehman (Executive Director, War on Want).
MAD PRIDE: CHANGING THE WAY WE TALK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH

Sat 11 May | 1:30-5pm | Art House | Free
In association with Spirit of the Rainbow Heron

How do you define yourself and your mental health? How do you want others to interact with you? What messages do you have for the world? Bring ideas to create into art for debate – placards, poems, pamphlets – which we will share online and continue debating after the event.

AFUA HIRSCH: BRIT(ISH) – ON RACE, IDENTITY AND BELONGING

Mon 13 May | 6:30-8pm | SU Auditorium | £5/£3
In association with Our Mel, The University of Sheffield BAME Staff Network & BME Students Committee

Join Afua Hirsch for a discussion of her Sunday Times bestseller. Brit(ish) is about a search for identity. It’s about the everyday racism that plagues British society and our awkward, troubled relationship with our history. Chaired by Desiree Reynolds, journalist, author and trustee of Racial Justice Network.

OUR FAMILY & IT: EXPLORING CHALLENGES, DILEMMAS & MORAL OBLIGATIONS OF PARENTAL LIFE-LIMITING ILLNESS

Tue 14 May | 12-1:30pm | Union St | Free
In association with Healthwatch Sheffield and The University of Sheffield

Our Family and IT: Dr Rachel Fearnley’s debut novel, is about parental life-limiting illness. This interactive workshop explores the challenges and dilemmas families experience as Fearnley reads excerpts and invites discussion about whether, as a society, we have a moral obligation to recognise this oft-ignored social issue.

THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Tue 14 May | 6:30–8:30pm | The Diamond LT5 | Free
In association with Healthwatch Sheffield

With the responsibility for public health now residing with local government rather than the NHS, is it possible to improve the public’s health? Panel featuring Greg Fell (Director of Public Health in Sheffield), Professor Elizabeth Goyder (University of Sheffield), Professor Alan Walker (University of Sheffield) and Councillor Jackie Drayton (Sheffield City Council Cabinet Member for Children & Families).

For more information and ticket links, go to festivalofdebate.com
facebook.com/FestivalOfDebate | @FestOfDebate

“Inherently, having privilege isn’t bad, but it’s how you use it, and you have to use it in service of other people.” Tarana Burke

“Art, freedom and creativity will change society faster than politics.” Victor Pinchuk
HOW CAN WE RETHINK MENTAL HEALTH?

Wed 15 May | 4-6pm | Victoria Centre | Free
In association with Sheffield Flourish

Mental health is in crisis - that’s a given. But how can we rethink how we understand and support people experiencing mental health difficulties and distress? Join us for an interactive debate-based event where we welcome provocative ideas and won’t shy away from the most challenging questions.

BUT RAISING THE EARTH IS FREE? THE IMPORTANCE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Thu 16 May | 5:30-7pm | Hicks Building LT2 | Free
In association with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures

Due to decades of over-borrowing from our planet’s natural assets, an environmental collapse is imminent. Everything from clothes to packaging follows a life of ‘take, use, dispose’. By adopting a circular economy, we can reduce the amount of waste we produce. But can this be achieved? Who is responsible? And what can be done?

GEORGE MONBIOT & GEORGE MARSHALL: HOW TO BREAK THE SILENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL COLLAPSE

Thu 16 May | 7-9pm | SU Auditorium | £13/£10
In association with Sheffield Climate Alliance

A discussion between two passionate and knowledgeable climate communicators, with a chance for the audience to join the conversation. George Monbiot is a journalist and author whose books include Heat: How to Stop the Planet Burning, Feral: Searching for Enchantment on the Frontiers of Rewilding and Out of the Wreckage: A New Politics for an Age of Crisis. George Marshall is the founder of Climate Outreach and author of Don’t Even Think About It: Why Our Brains Are Wired to Ignore Climate Change.

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.”
Ruth Bader Ginsburg
SHAKING THE MAGIC MONEY TREE, THE DEATH OF TINA & NEW ECONOMICS
Thu 16 May | 7-9pm | Central United Reform Church | Free
In association with Independent Working Class Education Network
Theresa May’s comment about ‘the magic money tree’ attracted attention as an election soundbite, but it also opened to scrutiny the established orthodoxies of political economy we have held as truths for the last 40 years. The evening will look at some of the issues it raises and challenge the orthodoxy to reveal some hidden truths.

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE ECONOMY!
Fri 17 May | 6-8pm | The Diamond | Free
In association with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures
Globally, economic growth is credited with reducing poverty and improving health. However, this growth is based on an ever-increasing demand which requires expanding the use of Earth’s limited natural resources. Should we reduce the size of the economy and the related demand for natural resources, or prioritise economic growth using sustainable means? Speakers TBA.

TRAINING FOR CHANGE
Sat 18 May | 10:30am–4:30pm | Union St | Free
In association with ACORN Sheffield
A one-day community organising workshop with ACORN. If you’re angry at the way things are in this country right now and want to do something about it – organise! Join community union ACORN for a one-day accredited crash course in community organising. Spaces limited.

SHEFFIELD ZINE FEST
Sat 18 May | 11am–5pm | Workstation | Free
Come along to browse and buy zines and crafts made by local writers, artists and designers and those from further afield – or make your own. Free entry and free workshops: make a mini zine, try mail art, craftivism and more. After party at the Treehouse Board Game Café.

“I am angry. We should all be angry. Anger has a long history of bringing about positive change.” Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

JAMES O’BRIEN: HOW TO BE RIGHT
Sat 18 May | 7:30–9pm | Pennine Lecture Theatre | £10/£12
The age of politely agreeing to disagree is over. In How To Be Right, James O’Brien, the star broadcaster – with a million weekly listeners to his LBC show – viral YouTube debater, national columnist and podcast sensation, shows how to be right in a world gone wrong. James won the 2017 Broadcaster of the Year award at the British Press Guild Awards.

FRUIT N JUICE & COMMON THREAD CLOTHES EXCHANGE PARTY
Sat 18 May | 1pm–Late | Foodhall | £4
In association with Fruit n Juice and Common Thread
Common Thread and Fruit n Juice come together for a slow fashion party. Common Thread host their monthly clothes exchange from 1–4pm (bring nearly-new items and take some away), followed by talks on the impact of fast fashion on people and planet from researchers and activists, a fashion show, music and dancing from 6pm. No need to book, just turn up.

ASHLEY BLAKER & IMRAN YUSUF: PROPHET SHARING
Sun 19 May | 7–10:30pm | The Leadmill | £15
In association with Leadmill Comedy Club
Two great religions. Two great comedians. The descendants of Abraham may have gone their separate ways but now stand-up comedian friends Ashley Blaker and Imran Yusuf are joining forces in the most unlikely double-act since Kermit and Miss Piggy.

TORTURE: WHY BRITAIN MUST CLEAN UP ITS ACT
Mon 20 May | 6:30–7:30pm | Nice Neighbourhood | Free
In association with The University of Sheffield & Reprieve
UK complicity in torture as part of the War on Terror is now a matter of public record. Successive UK governments denied it and sought to prevent independent investigation. Prof. Ruth Blakeley and Jackie Harrison (University of Sheffield) discuss with Sam Johnston Hawke (Reprieve) why UK policy on torture needs urgent reform.
HOW CAN WOMEN’S & LGBT+ COMMUNITIES BUILD INCLUSIVE SPACES?
Tue 21 May | 6-8pm | Firth Court, Council Room | Free
In association with SheFest and LGBT+ Hub
Join SheFest and the LGBT+ Hub to discuss inclusion between communities. Addressing issues including the exclusion of trans women from women’s spaces and underrepresentation of women in LGBT+ spaces, SheFest invites panellists to discuss ways we can improve inclusion of marginalised and underrepresented members of our communities.

WHERE DOES TINSLEY GET ITS FOOD FROM?
Tue 21 May | 6:30-8:30pm | Tinsley TINGAS | Free
With a range of new food-related projects emerging in Tinsley, from hydroponics to community allotments, all amidst food security and food waste pressures, how can Tinsley respond to this challenge and what community actions could be possible? An open space discussion involving community groups, academics and activists from the area.

STOPPING THE PLUNDERING OF AFRICA
Wed 22 May | 7-9:15pm | Central United Reformed Church | Free
In association with Global Justice Sheffield
Martha Musonza Holman of the Fairtrade charity Love Zimbabwe sets the scene of Zimbabweans’ everyday lives; Africa@UK’s Gbenga Shadare describes working with insiders who assisted looters; Jubilee Debt Campaign’s Tim Jones reveals how UK banks facilitate ruinous debt, including via ‘odious loans’; and Christian Aid’s Sophie Efange argues for reparations for Britain’s violent colonial history, now perpetuating Africa’s modern-day structural inequalities.

MAY

CAN ETHICAL BE PROFITABLE?
Thu 23 May | 6-8pm | EYEYE | Free
In association with EYEYE Sheffield
Lots of people like the idea of supporting ethical, independent and local businesses who pay their taxes. But can you have ethics and profits in a period of austerity? Come and share ideas with local Sheffield business owners who try to offer good value and good values.

IN A VULNERABLE PLACE
Thu 23 May | 7:30-10pm | Regather Works | £7
Acclaimed playwright Steve Waters’s one-man show is a very personal journey into the present tense reality of climate change. It tells the story of encounters he has had with people in the Norfolk Broads – a landscape under a death penalty – and in Mongolia – a place experiencing the temperature rises scheduled for the rest of the world by 2050 – as Waters discovers a world where there’s so much left to fight for.

THE GUILTY FEMINIST: LIVE
Thu 23 May | 7:30-10pm | City Hall | £16.80–£30.80
In association with Sheffield City Hall
The Guilty Feminist podcast has become a phenomenon, with over 50 million downloads since its launch in 2015. Comedian Deborah Frances-White and her guests explore the noble goals of 21st century feminists whilst confessing the insecurities, hypocrisies and paradoxes which undermine those goals. Deborah will be joined by a range of guests from the podcast for a celebration of how far we’ve come and a conversation about what remains to be done.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT
Fri 24 - Mon 27 May | 10am-6pm | Millennium Gallery & Winter Garden | Free
In association with SHEF FOOD and the Sheffield Food Festival
Join SHEF FOOD – Sheffield’s Sustainable Food Partnership for action-provoking talks, exhibits and workshops across the Millennium Gallery (Friday 10am–7:30pm) and the Winter Garden (Sat-Mon 10am–5pm) throughout the Sheffield Food Festival. Explore the issues, meet the people and seize the opportunities to change the health, equality, economy and sustainability of all things food and drink in Sheffield for the better, for everyone! Visit shefffood.org.uk to find more info and how to get involved.

ROGER McGOUGH & STAN SKINNY
Tue 21 May | 7-10pm | Abbeydale Picture House | £15
Part of Sheaf Poetry Festival
Roger McGough is the ‘Patron Saint of Poetry’ (Carol Ann Duffy). Exuberant new collection joinedupwriting ranges from forgotten friendships and the idiosyncrasies of family life, to the trauma of war and contemporary global politics. These poems explore the human experience in all its shades of light and dark, but always with McGough’s signature wit, irreverence and vivacity.

WHERE DOES TINSLEY GET ITS FOOD FROM?
Tue 21 May | 6:30-8:30pm | Tinsley TINGAS | Free
With a range of new food-related projects emerging in Tinsley, from hydroponics to community allotments, all amidst food security and food waste pressures, how can Tinsley respond to this challenge and what community actions could be possible? An open space discussion involving community groups, academics and activists from the area.

STOPPING THE PLUNDERING OF AFRICA
Wed 22 May | 7-9:15pm | Central United Reformed Church | Free
In association with Global Justice Sheffield
Martha Musonza Holman of the Fairtrade charity Love Zimbabwe sets the scene of Zimbabweans’ everyday lives; Africa@UK’s Gbenga Shadare describes working with insiders who assisted looters; Jubilee Debt Campaign’s Tim Jones reveals how UK banks facilitate ruinous debt, including via ‘odious loans’; and Christian Aid’s Sophie Efange argues for reparations for Britain’s violent colonial history, now perpetuating Africa’s modern-day structural inequalities.

MAY
**STEVE SILBERMAN: NEUROTRIBES**
Sat 25 May | 2-4pm | Charles St Lecture Theatre | £5
In association with MisTÂûght & Healthwatch Sheffield

Steve Silberman, author of *NeuroTribes: The Legacy of Autism & Future of Neurodiversity*, discusses his work with MisTÂûght founder Melissa Simmonds. Silberman’s book won the Samuel Johnson Prize in 2015 and is considered essential reading for those interested in the topic.

**YOUNG PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY & THE FUTURE OF AR’ CITY**
Sat 25 May | 12–2:30pm | 108 The Moor | Free

How do you make a city fun? Taking the concept of the ‘playable city’, Ar’ City uses creative tech interventions made by young people to prompt citizens to re-think everyday moments and form memorable shared experiences. We invite you to explore some of the exhibitions, play with the technology and meet the makers.

**SERMON OF THE SOIL: SOIL DEGRADATION & THE UNFOLDING GLOBAL DISASTER**
Fri 24 May | 6–7pm | Millennium Gallery | Free
In association with Food For Thought & The University of Sheffield

Professor Duncan Cameron, co-director of the Institute of Sustainable Food, talks about his research into soil degradation across the globe, one of the greatest threats to agriculture. Prof. Cameron looks at the past and present issues, and what we can do to develop sustainable agriculture to feed the world’s population.

**EXPRESSONS OF PROTEST: JOURNEYS TO UNDERSTANDING**
Fri 24 May | 7:30–10:30pm | Sheffield Hallam Performance Lab | £10/£5

Jerusalem born singer-songwriter Avital Raz and performance artist Dani AbuHawwa are friends. Dani’s father grew up in East Jerusalem, Avital in the west. On equal ground they explore their heritage and connection to Palestine/Israel through live performance (My Jerusalem), film (The Slide), a short talk and panel debate.

**MONEY IS WEIRD**
Fri 24 May | 7:30–8:30pm | Regather Works | £6

From the mind that brought you ironic tax advice (Dodge&Co, Festival of Debate 2017/18) comes a show about money and how profoundly weird it is. Join Laurence Peacock as he tries to answer the fundamental questions: What is money? Where does it come from? And will you give him £6?

**EDIBLE & MEDICINAL PLANT WALK**
Sun 26 May | 1:30–3pm | Heeley People’s Park | Suggested donation £5–£15
In association with Unity Edible Gardens

Meet opposite the Brothers Arms pub and take a gentle walk around the park while identifying plants and learning practical ways of using them as food or medicine. You’ll never look at a ‘weed’ in the same way again. No need to book, just turn up.

**FAR GONE**
Wed 29 May - Sat 1 June | 7:45–8:45pm | Theatre Deli | £9.07–£11.19

Written, created and performed by John Rwoth-Omack, Far Gone is a gut-kicking physical performance with humour, poetry and the horrors of being a child soldier. The play also explores how the political and financial decisions made by western powers affect the life of a child soldier.

**PAUL MASON – CLEAR BRIGHT FUTURE: A RADICAL DEFENCE OF THE HUMAN BEING**
Wed 29 May | 7:30–9pm | Pennine Lecture Theatre | £10/£8
In partnership with Off The Shelf Festival of Words

A call for resistance against the politicians and corporations who are trying to exert new forms of technological control. ‘A radical defence of the human being’ means fighting for universal rights, for human-centric institutions, and for the right to resist control of our lives by algorithms. Paul Mason is a journalist, broadcaster and author, whose books include *PostCapitalism: A Guide to Our Future* and *Why It’s Kicking Off Everywhere: The New Global Revolutions.*

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"The future depends entirely on what each of us does every day; a movement is only people moving." — Gloria Steinem
**BRIDGING THE GAP: IMPROVING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE POLICE & YOUNG PEOPLE**

Thu 30 May | 6-7:30pm | Star House | Free
In association with Sheffield Futures and South Yorkshire Police

How can the police better communicate with young people? Why wouldn’t a young person report a crime? What can be done to change that? Following on from Sheffield Youth Cabinet’s knife crime consultations with young people, we want to start a discussion to see how we can work together for a better, safer Sheffield.

**JULIA UNWIN: POWER IN OUR HANDS?**

Thu 30 May | 6:30-8:30pm | The Circle | Pay As You Feel
In association with Voluntary Action Sheffield

‘Neither the market nor the state alone can re-thread our social fabric, rebuild our democracy and respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing age. We must be at the heart of it. We must lead the way.’ Julia Unwin CBE, Chair of Civil Society Futures and former Chief Executive of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, continues a collaborative series of much-needed conversations around civic action and civil society.

**LIVE LATE: THE PEOPLE’S PALACE OF POSSIBILITY**

Fri 31 May | 7:30-10:30pm | Millennium Gallery | Suggested donation £4

Do you dream of a better way to live? Join us for a night of John Ruskin-fuelled performance, protest and utopia building. Roll your sleeves up to build The People’s Palace of Possibility with imagineers The Bare Project. Enjoy utopian-inspired performance, music and film curated by the team behind Wordlife while you create. Bar open. This event is for over 18s only. No need to book, just turn up.

For more information and ticket links, go to festivalofdebate.com
facebook.com/FestivalOfDebate | @FestOfDebate
There are many forces in the world that seek to divide us. To close the Festival of Debate 2019, our Living Together Hub Day seeks to explore new ways that we can live and work together.

The full day explores a range of issues facilitated by a series of short sessions by groups such as Disability Sheffield, Roundabout, South Yorkshire Housing Association and Amnesty International, before coming together for a Question Time-style event featuring the outgoing Lord Mayor Majid Majid, Ash Sarkar (Novara Media) and Adam Ramsay (openDemocracy).

1-2PM | DISABILITY SHEFFIELD’S INDEPENDENCE CAFÉ
Participants will choose and discuss three items from the café menu: Independent Living, Social Inclusion, Choice & Control, then write to elected representatives with key findings from the discussions in relation to social care and how it fits with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Disabled People.

1-2PM | HOW CAN WE BUILD THE KIND OF DEMOCRACY THAT EMPOWERS US TO MAKE CONNECTIONS?
openDemocracy editor and journalist Adam Ramsay will run a session based on his pamphlet, Trying to milk a vulture: If we want economic justice, we need a democratic revolution, about how to build the kind of democracy that empowers us to make connections and nurture egalitarian and flourishing communities.

2:15-3PM | COOPERATION AND COLLECTIVE DECISION MAKING
The Principle 5 Co-operative Resource Centre believes that cooperation is what the world needs. Representatives from the growing range of cooperatives in this region invite you to discuss how and why they do it – and what exactly it’s like to be running a co-op.

2:15-3PM | SENTENCED TO DEATH: CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY
Amnesty International firmly believe that no one – including any government – has the right to take away someone else’s life. It is launching a specific network to focus on abolishing the death penalty. Amnesty International will give a talk on the death penalty around the world, with opportunities to take action and support the campaign.

3:15-4:30PM | RESPONDING TO HATE CRIME IN PUBLIC SPACES
Hate crime in public spaces happens. How do we react? What do we say? Did we get it right? Join Who is Your Neighbour for an interactive workshop and leave with some shared experiences of different responses to hate crime.

3:15-4:30PM | SOMALILAND: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE
Join Green Party Cllr. Kaltum Rivers and a representative of the Somaliland Mission in the UK to hear how self-declared independent state Somaliland is functioning effectively as a state and how its future might look. Chaired by Natalie Bennett from Sheffield Green Party.

3:15-4:30PM | STARTING A CONVERSATION ABOUT HOMELESSNESS
South Yorkshire Housing Association host an interactive event, including a film screening, to encourage conversations about ending homelessness in the Sheffield area.

4:45-6PM | WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE SLEEPING ROUGH IN SHEFFIELD?
Official figures report that 26 people sleep out in Sheffield on any given night. Are these figures accurate? Who are these 26 people? What is being done to help them? Can we ever get to the point where nobody has to sleep out in our city? Can you be part of the solution? Session in association with Roundabout.

7-8:30PM | FESTIVAL OF DEBATE DOES QUESTION TIME · £8/£6
To close the Festival of Debate we’ll be holding a Question Time-style event, featuring a variety of leading political figures and commentators, answering direct questions from the audience. Speakers include the outgoing Lord Mayor Majid Majid, Novara Media’s Ash Sarkar and openDemocracy editor and journalist Adam Ramsay.
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We are working towards a long term vision where everyone is treated with dignity and respect - to create a more inclusive city where everyone can live and work alongside one another harmoniously.

*Cohesion is not threatened by diversity, it is threatened by deprivation and inequality.*

If you are already working to promote cohesion in Sheffield please let us know so we can celebrate your work.

Or join the Cohesion network of businesses, public sector, community, faith and voluntary sector organisations and individuals for mutual exchange and collaborative working.

Contact Us & Get Involved:
ploh@cohesionsheffield.co.uk
www.cohesionsheffield.co.uk
Tel: 0114 253 6636

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108 THE MOOR
108 THE MOOR, S1 4PD

38 MAPPIN ST, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
MAPPIN ST, S1 3JD

ABBERYDALE PICTURE HOUSE
387 ABBERYDALE RD, S7 1FS

ABBERYFIELD PARK HOUSE COMMUNITY ROOM
187 BURNGREAVE RD, S3 9DL

ART HOUSE
8 BACKFIELDS, S1 4HJ

BARNESLEY DIGITAL MEDIA CENTRE
COUNTY WAY, BARNESLEY, S70 2JW

BURNGREAVE ASHRAM
86 SPITAL HILL, S4 7LG

CENTRAL UNITED REFORM CHURCH
60 NORFOLK ST, S1 2JB

CHARLES ST LECTURE THEATRE
133 CHARLES ST, S1 2ND

CHURCH OF CHRIST IN DARNALL
STATION RD, S9 40B

THE CIRCLE
53 ROCKINGHAM LN, S1 4FW

CITY HALL
BARKERS POOL, S1 2JA

COUNCIL ROOM AT FIRTH COURT
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, WESTERN BANK, S10 2TN

THE DIAMOND
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD, 32 LEAVYGREAVE RD, S3 7RD

DINA
32A-34 CAMBRIDGE ST, S1 4HP

ELEMENT SOCIETY
YORKSHIRE HOUSE, 66 LEOPOLD ST, S1 2GZ

EYEEE
112 DEVONSHIRE ST, S3 7SF

FIR VALE COMMUNITY HUB
127 PAGE HALL RD, S4 8GU

FOODHALL
121 EYRE ST, S1 4QW

HEELY PEOPLE’S PARK
VIEW RD, S2 3DJ

HICKS BUILDING
226 HOUNSFIELD RD, S3 7RH

THE LEADMILL
6 LEADMILL RD, S1 4SE

MILLENIUM GALLERY
ARUNDEL GATE, S1 2PP

NICE NEIGHBOURHOOD
342 GLOSSOP RD, S10 2HW

THE OCTAGON CENTRE
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD
CLARKSON ST, S10 2TQ

PENNINE LECTURE THEATRE
OWEN BUILDING, SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY, HOWARD ST, S1 1WB

VENUES
QUAKER MEETING HOUSE
10 ST JAMES’ ST, S1 2EW

REGATHER WORKS
57–59 CLUB GARDEN RD, S11 8BU

ST MARY’S CHURCH HALL WALKLEY
HOWARD RD, S6 3RX

SCOTIA WORKS
SUFFOLK RD, S2 4AF

SHEFFIELD HALLAM PERFORMANCE LAB
ARUNDEL GATE, S1 2LQ

SHOWROOM WORKSTATION CREATIVE LOUNGE
15 PATERNOSTER ROW, S1 2BX

STAR HOUSE
43 DIVISION ST, S1 4GE

SU AUDITORIUM
UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD STUDENTS’ UNION, WESTERN BANK, S10 2TG

THEATRE DELI
202 EYRE ST, S1 4QZ

TINSLEY TINGAS
SIEMENS CL, S9 1UN

UNION ST
18–20 UNION ST, S1 2JP

VICTORIA CENTRE
VICTORIA METHODIST CHURCH, STAFFORD RD, S2 2SE

WINTER GARDEN
90 SURREY ST, S1 2LH

Level Access and Automatic Doors – Level access to entrance, sensor or push pad-operated automatic doors (or no doors), space for wheelchair (75cm).

Access by ramps, slopes and/or manual doors – Easy/moderate ramp/slope with manual or automatic doors at entrance or inside venue. Space for wheelchair (75cm).

Seat Available – Seating is available as standard or can be requested.

WC Accessible – Step-free access to accessible toilets, with grab rails, drop-down rails and space for wheelchair (75cm).

WC Standard – Step-free access to standard toilets on ground floor or other floors accessible by lift.

Parking 3* – Venue has its own car park.

Parking 2* – Blue badge on-street parking, or venue can provide parking to blue badge holders with prior warning.

Parking 1* – Public car park within 200m of venue.

If you have any access requirements, please contact us (hello@festivalofdebate.com) or the venue directly to ensure your visit is comfortable. We’ve tried to make this venue guide as accurate as possible, but it’s a lot to fit in. More information is available at accessible.co.uk. If you have any additional needs – for example, knowing how to get to and from a venue, having a seat saved for you, or accessing the venue before an event begins – please get in touch.
PARTNERS

The Festival of Debate could not take place without the generosity and commitment of many individuals and groups across Sheffield and beyond. We are hugely appreciative of their support, passion and involvement in the festival. Please take note of the logos below. These people do great work.
Opus is the collective behind Festival of Debate, Now Then Magazine and App, Wordlife, and loads of other good stuff in Sheffield.

We invest profit and resource in social good, helping other not-for-profits and participating in community projects that make our city better for us all.

We can do much more with friends on our side, and we’re inviting you to join us and support our work.

Becoming a ‘Friend of Opus’ will give back more than a warm glow of doing good and making a difference, you’ll get benefits too, like priority booking for our events, discounts, backstage access and voting rights, so you can influence how Opus is run and who benefits from our support.

You can find out more and sign up at www.weareopus.org/friends
Over 60 events
Book now.

www.festivalofdebate.com