CAFÉ THÉOLOGIQUE

Selected Mondays 19:30–21:00 on Zoom
(Zoom link: u.nu/cafetheo
Full Meeting ID: 994 1078 8443  Passcode: 511541)

Café Théologique is a bi-termly popular theology event hosted by the University Chaplaincy and the Office of the Bishop of Reading. It aims to bring contemporary theological thinking into the public realm. All welcome of any faith or none.

Monday 12 October
Confessions of a Rabbi: an interactive session of moral dilemmas and sexual traumas
Dr Jonathan Romain, MBE (Rabbi of Maidenhead Synagogue, author and broadcaster)

Monday 9 November
Christian Nationalism: the Gospel according to Trump?
Dr Stephen Backhouse (Director, Tent Theology; lecturer at the Institute for Religion, Peace and Justice, St Stephen’s University, Canada)

reading.ac.uk/chaplaincy/cafe-theologique.aspx
Every election matters and this year’s US presidential race is no different. Given President Trump’s controversial first term record, and more recently, his poor handling of the health pandemic, no wonder Democratic candidate, Joe Biden, has called this election the last chance to save American democracy. But COVID-19, the economic crisis it precipitated, and the Black Lives Matter protests have only exacerbated and highlighted issues that have plagued American politics and society for decades now. Trump is not a historical anomaly.

What if 2016 altered forever the character of the nation? In this lecture, historian Mara Oliva looks at the political, economic and social reasons behind Trump’s rise to power, the impact of his election on democracy at home and abroad and what this means for 2020.

Mara Oliva is Associate Professor of US political history at the University of Reading.

To book your place visit reading.ac.uk/events
The University of Reading is delighted to announce the next event in our inspirational Alumni Lecture Series, featuring alumna Dr Cath Bishop, former Olympic Rower and respected diplomat (PhD, Contemporary German Literature, 2000).

Cath's unique career combines experience across Olympic sport, diplomacy in warzones and coaching in business. She has encountered the search for success and desire to win at every turn and has become fascinated over recent years with the deeply engrained role that winning plays in our lives. In her talk based on her new book, ‘The Long Win: The search for a better way to succeed’, Cath examines our obsession with winning, how it is holding us back in schools, businesses, sports and politics, and proposes a new approach, ‘the long win’. Join us online – don’t miss the opportunity to put your questions to Cath in a live Q & A at the end of the session.

To book your place visit reading.ac.uk/events

Wednesday 21 October 18:30 – 19:30
Prof. Robert Beckford discusses the creation of a gospel music album, the Jamaican Bible Remix. The album mixes audio from the 2012 Jamaican New Testament, black British urban music, and social and political-theological commentary on the audio.

Robert Beckford researches in written, visual and audio texts and has won numerous awards, including a BAFTA. He has presented over twenty television documentaries on commercial television stations.

Part of the University of Reading Chaplaincy’s Café Théologique series, this special event for Black History Month is run in partnership with the University of Reading’s Diversity and Inclusion Team and Reading University Students’ Union (RUSU).

For more information, please contact
Revd Dr Mark Laynesmith
chaplaincy@reading.ac.uk
07963 134623
HALLOWE’EN AND THE HISTORY OF WITCHCRAFT

CHILDREN'S HALF TERM ONLINE LECTURE

Wednesday 28 October  16:00–16:30

As shadowy figures walk our streets, clutching broomsticks, cauldrons, and pointed hats, we ask why witches and magic came to be associated with Hallowe’en. We’ll take a journey back to the 17th century to investigate beliefs about witchcraft in the past, act as historical detectives gathering stories and evidence, and find out where some of our Hallowe’en traditions really come from.

Helen Parish is Professor of History at the University of Reading. She specialises in the history of religion and magic, and the study of the relationship between the natural and the supernatural in Europe between 1400 and 1800.

To book a place visit reading.ac.uk/events
NOVEMBER
POSTGRADUATE TEACHER TRAINING INFORMATION (LIVE SESSION)

Monday 9 November
16:30–18:00

Find out about the different routes into teaching for Early Years, Primary and Secondary Postgraduate programmes.

Admission free. Booking required.

For more information contact ioe@reading.ac.uk or visit reading.ac.uk/education-events
ONLINE PUBLIC LECTURE:
YOUR VOICE SPEAKS VOLUMES:
WHAT ACCENT CHANGE IN ENGLISH CAN TELL US ABOUT ENGLAND

Wednesday 11 November 19:00–19:45

Why do we speak the way we do, and why do accent differences in British English fascinate some people and infuriate others? Take a trip across time to discover the origins of different accents of English in England, recent changes in the way we speak, and how language and attitudes to it are a reflection of so many other discipline areas, including history, geography, sociology, politics and economics.

Jane Setter is Professor of Phonetics in the Department of English Language and Applied Linguistics and a National Teaching Fellow. Probably best known for her popular science book, Your Voice Speaks Volumes: it’s not what you say, but how you say it (OUP, 2019) and the Cambridge English Pronouncing Dictionary (CUP, 2011), Jane is a sought-after commentator in the media on topics such as UK accents, pronunciation and English as a global language. Her research interests are in speech prosody (rhythm, intonation), mainly looking at children with speech and language deficits and features of South East Asian Englishes.

Admission free. To book your place, visit reading.ac.uk/events

For more information, contact events@reading.ac.uk
MASTER’S VIRTUAL OPEN DAY

Friday 13 November  10:30–14:30

Our virtual event will include presentations and Q&A sessions with academic staff on our different master’s courses, as well as live chat with our current students.

Staff from our Accommodation, Admissions and Student Financial Support teams will also be on hand to answer your questions.

This virtual event will therefore be a great opportunity to get detailed information from lecturers about their programmes, chat to current master’s students, and find essential information about funding and applying.

Admission free. Booking essential.

reading.ac.uk/postgraduate-events
The University of Reading is proud to announce the next event in the inspirational Alumni Lecture Series: featuring alumnus Dr Lawrence Haddad (BSc Food Science and Food Economics, 1980). Lawrence is a British economist who has forged an influential career in food, agriculture and nutrition. He is currently Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN). In 2018 Lawrence was co-recipient of the prestigious World Food Prize for “extraordinary intellectual and policy leadership in bringing maternal and child nutrition to the forefront of the global food security agenda and thereby significantly reducing childhood stunting”.

All are welcome to attend this event and we would be delighted if you could join us.

Admission is free. Registration is essential.

To book your place, visit reading.ac.uk/alumni

For more information, contact alumni@reading.ac.uk
GLOW
THE LIGHT & THE DARK

Thursday 19 November
19:00 – 21:00

Find and explore connections across cultures
to discover new worlds, celebrate our shared
humanity and bring a glow to your life. GLOW will
examine harvest and its centrality in the Diwali
festival of light with rangoli, diya lamps & distanced
dancing with Kala the Arts at The MERL, along with
connections to other folklore and festivals marking
the end of summer and other light festivals such
as Hanukah, Bonfire Night, Christmas and pagan
ritual. Part of the Being Human Festival.

Admission free to students.
Booking essential.

To book your place visit,
merl.reading.ac.uk/whats-on

@TheMERL the.merl /MuseumofEnglishRuralLife

The MERL on site and online – see website for details
DECEMBER
‘POMPEII OF THE SYRIAN DESERT’? RETHINKING DURA-EUROPOS FOR THE ‘DECOLONIAL’ ERA

Friday 4 December 16:00–17:00

All are welcome to join University of Reading’s Classics Department online for the 10th Annual Percy Ure Lecture, to be delivered by Simon James, Professor of Archaeology at University of Leicester and President of the Ermine Street Guard. In this lecture, which honours the legacy of our founding Professor, Percy N. Ure, Professor James will consider the civil aspects of the Roman garrison at Dura-Europos, its nature and origins.


For more information, please contact Professor Amy C. Smith at a.c.smith@reading.ac.uk
WHAT IS A PIRATE?

ONLINE CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS LECTURE

Wednesday 16 December  16:00–16:45

We all know what pirates are – what they look like, what they talk like, what they do. Or do we? How many of our popular and familiar ideas about piracy are true?

In this lecture Dr Richard Blakemore, a specialist in maritime history, will take you on a tour of the real pirates of the Caribbean, introducing colourful characters and fascinating historical evidence, and exploring the myths and the legacies they left behind.

Admission free.
Booking essential.

To book your place visit, reading.ac.uk/events