

UNIVERSITY CENTRE HALESOWEN FREE PUBLIC LECTURE PROGRAMME

AUTUMN/
WINTER
2020/21



UNIVERSITY CENTRE
HALESOWEN



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UNIVERSITY CENTRE HALESOWEN

University Centre Halesowen launched in January 2020 and is run in partnership with the University of Worcester.

The Centre acts as an educational and cultural hub.

Its aims are to raise educational aspirations and encourage increased participation in higher education.



September-December 2020

SEPTEMBER 2020

The Role of Technology in Domestic Abuse Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Dr Holly Taylor-Dunn considered how advances in technology have impacted the methods used by perpetrators to monitor and control their victims.

The discussion began by considering how technology can be used to coercively control someone within an abusive relationship before considering how technology can be used to stalk and harass a victim when the relationship has ended. The lecture concluded with safety tips and advice for anyone affected by technology related domestic abuse.



Dr Taylor-Dunn has been working in the field of abuse for 20 years. Holly initially worked for the police as a Domestic Abuse Officer before working for a large Women's Aid organisation. Holly is the Course Lead for the Master's Degree in Understanding Domestic and Sexual Violence at the University of Worcester.

OCTOBER 2020

The Impact of Covid-19 on Mental Health Friday 23rd October 2020

Senior Lecturer Jo Augustus discussed the significant impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on mental health. In some instances, this has led to feelings of anxiety as well as isolation and loneliness, which can trigger low mood.

Many individuals may have experienced considerable loss and change, be that loss of a loved one, redundancy or loss of identity. The discussion considered how existing services can support individuals with these difficulties and the evidence based approaches known to reduce them. The talk concluded with strategies that could help anyone affected.

Jo Augustus is an accredited Cognitive Behaviour Therapist. Jo uses evidence-based interventions to treat clients with anxiety and depression related difficulties. Jo is the Course Leader for the Foundation Degree in Mental Health at the University of Worcester and is passionate about providing accessible learning opportunities and promoting academic enquiry.



NOVEMBER 2020

The US Presidential Election and Impact on the US-UK 'special relationship'

Thursday 26th November 2020

Dr. Luke Devine's lecture looked at the potential impact of the US presidential election on the UK/US 'special relationship.' In the process, Luke considered what the election result might mean for future trade relations, Brexit, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson, at the same time factoring in the impact of Covid-19, existential foreign policy concerns, and the UK's potential post-Brexit international role.



Dr. Luke Devine is a Senior Lecturer at University of Worcester; Luke is Course Leader for Politics and Co-Course Leader for Sociology.

Luke's research and teaching specialisms include contemporary politics, race, ethnicity, gender, anti-Semitism, Freudian psychoanalysis, neo-Platonism, and Jewish mysticism.

DECEMBER 2020

Coronavirus and Consumer Behaviour Tuesday 15 December 2020 2PM

In this free virtual lecture Dr Helen Watts will discuss the role of anxiety within consumer decision making and behaviour.

The discussion will consider how the coronavirus pandemic is creating additional anxieties both in the interactions consumers have with retailers and leisure providers, as well as in the interactions consumers have with each other.

Dr Helen Watts is a Registered Psychologist and holds a PhD in Customer Membership Retention giving her professional and academic expertise in both occupational and consumer psychology. Currently, Helen is a Senior Lecturer in the University of Worcester Business School, teaching marketing, consumer psychology, consumer behaviour and research methods.



January-February 2021

JANUARY 2021

Creativity and Well-being in the Curriculum

Tuesday 26th January 2021 6PM

Dr Roshan Doug will consider the drawbacks in our existing education policy that continues to undermine the role of creativity.

By critiquing the National Curriculum and education management, he will argue that we have to look at curriculum content and the politics of education carefully if we are to provide a more conducive programme of learning.



Dr Roshan Doug is a lecturer in English and Writer-in-Residence at Halesowen College. He contributes to The Times Educational Supplement, is a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and former Birmingham Poet Laureate.

He has written peer-reviewed papers on several topics including English in the National Curriculum, and the importance of teaching handwriting skills to pupils.

FEBRUARY 2021

Social Media and Body Image Thursday 25th February 2021 2PM

Social media are available at all times and places, saturating our lives with idealised images that encourage us to make comparisons. In this free virtual lecture Dr Barbara Mitra will illustrate the shocking statistics of UK teenagers worried about their body image after being on social media and the rise of eating disorders in relation to posts on Instagram.

Dr Mitra will discuss how the idealised body images for both males and females may encourage body dissatisfaction. Can we resist and challenge these discourses? What influence does social media have on us?

Dr Barbara Mitra is the Course Leader for Media & Culture at the University of Worcester.

Her research and teaching interests focus on gender, but span a wide range of issues from advertising and children to news readers. More recently her research is moving into the area of social media, body image and eating disorders.



UNIVERSITY CENTRE HALESOWEN

For visitors to the University Centre Halesowen, the Campus provides the ideal environment to explore the prospect of higher education and experience what university-level study could be like.

A range of talks, lectures and activities are available to the public and students. Though these will all be on varied subjects, they offer you the opportunity to get a feel of what university lectures may be like, and how you can be inspired by the expansion of ideas and theories.

All events are free of charge and open to anyone who is interested in attending.



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