

Science, Religion and Big Questions

Does and should the advance of human like machines and AI change how we understand human significance?

Wednesday 7th February 2018 – Westminster Abbey

10am - 11.15am (1 hour 15mins)	Welcome and tour of the Abbey		
11.15am - 11.30am (15mins)	Break – cold drinks served in St Margarets	St Margarets	
11.30am - 11.50am (20 mins)	Keynote – Prof Berry Billingsley Cosmic Causality: How to evaluate our uniqueness in the Universe	St Margarets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A talk which focuses on causality and order in the Universe and how it relates to us as humans: • Raise questions about the relationships between science and religion • Explore links between human uniqueness and uniqueness in nature • Evaluate perspectives and models of personhood
11.50am - 12pm	Moving to individual workshops - 10 minutes		
12pm - 12.45pm (45 mins)	Workshop 1 1a) Can a robot be more than a robot? Revd Jennifer Brown	Committee Room (CR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop focusing on emerging AI technologies and the impact they might have on our unique status as humans: • Learn about new developments in robotics • Assess whether advances in robotics and artificial intelligence trivialise or illuminate human significance • Compare ways that scholars in different disciplines and those working across disciplines describe and explain what it means to be human

	<p>1b) Kepler and his theological vision of astronomy</p> <p>Dr Elisabetta Canetta</p>	<p>Education Centre 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop looking at inherent order in Mathematics and Astronomy. • Consider examples of order and patterns in the Universe • Propose and evaluate ways to account for order
	<p>1c) All you need it science, or is it? Being fully human in the modern world.</p> <p>Revd Mark Laynesmith</p>	<p>Cheyneygates Library</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop looking at Science’s epistemological limitations • Identify what makes a question characteristically ‘scientific’ and whether science has limitations • Form a response to the statement that science and science alone provides valid information about the universe
	<p>1d) Can Science make better humans?</p> <p>Dr John Bryant</p>	<p>Education Centre 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop looking at technological enhancement and its implications for humanity. • Learn about ways to intervene with human life such as genetic engineering • Identify and explore their ethical and social implications • Form a response to the question: Can science make better humans?
	<p>1e) Beyond Descartes: futureproofing how we think about the soul</p> <p>Finley Lawson & Tom German</p>	<p>Meeting Room (MR)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workshop looking at mind/body duality and its continuing impact on modern views of what it means to be human. • Evaluate Descartes claims of dualism • Consider a typology of accounts of the soul • Analyse impacts that Descartes’ vision has had on the modern world.
	<p>1f) Spaghetti & Personality</p> <p>Dr Marc Brown & Dr Mehdi Nassaji</p>	<p>Cheyneygates (CHG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A hands–on workshop which examines the notion of the power and limitations of science when thinking about what it means to be human. • Order questions according to their amenability to science

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Form a response to the key question: will science one day explain and explain away what it means to be human
12.45pm - 1.25pm (40 mins)	Lunch - offsite	Offsite	
1.25pm - 1.30pm	Moving to workshops - 5 minutes		
1.30pm - 2.15pm (45 mins)	<p>Workshops 2 and mind maps</p> <p>Repeat of above workshops with groups swapped</p> <p>2a) Can a robot be more than a robot? - Revd Jennifer Brown</p> <p>2b) Kepler and his theological vision of astronomy - Dr Elisabetta Canetta</p> <p>2c) All you need it science, or is it? Being fully human in the modern world - Revd Mark Laynesmith</p> <p>2d) Can Science make better humans? - Dr John Bryant</p> <p>2e) Beyond Descartes: futureproofing how we think about the soul - Finley Lawson & Tom German</p> <p>2f) Dr Marc Brown & Dr Mehdi Nassaji</p>	<p>Committee Room (CR)</p> <p>Education Centre 1</p> <p>Cheyneygates Library</p> <p>Education Centre 2</p> <p>Meeting Room (MR)</p> <p>Cheyneygates (CHG)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of workshop theme outlined above Discuss what was learnt in their morning workshop Mind map activity – students reflect on prior knowledge and from what they have learnt today to produce individual mind maps to be presented in following session.
2.15pm- 2.25pm	Moving - 10 minutes		

2.25pm - 3.10pm (45 mins)	Questions and Answers with panel members	St Margarets	
3.10pm - 3.20pm (10 mins)	Plenary with PowerPoint of mindmaps	St Margarets	
3.20pm - 3.30pm (10 mins)	Thanks, Goodbye and Evaluation	St Margarets	