

Dining with Dinosaurs

Schedule for Trinity Term 2023



Dining with Dinosaurs is a highlight of Reuben College's Academic Programme. World-class speakers are invited to speak, usually on a topic within the College's research themes, followed by a dinner where guests debate questions inspired by the seminar.

All Dining with Dinosaur events are held at the Museum of Natural History (Parks Rd, Oxford OX1 3PW).

Date & Time	Seminar details
<p>Thurs 27 April Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>Breaking the Rules - Arts & social transformations</u> Professor Paul Heritage (QMUL) is Director of People's Palace Projects, a research centre that brings together artists, activists, academics, and audiences to challenge social injustices through the power of the arts. In this seminar, he will discuss research projects in Brazil that use arts-based practice to build resilience and resistance to mental health crises, environmental degradation and the climate emergency, violence, and other social injustices.</p>
<p>Thurs 4 May Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>Psychedelic Moral Enhancement? Beware the Hype</u> The human enhancement debate has tended to focus on improvements to the body, mood, or cognition. However, there is now a quickly expanding literature on the prospect of using biomedical means to improve human beings as moral agents. In this talk Brian D. Earp will explore an emerging possibility: the potential use of certain psychedelic substances (under legal and appropriately supervised conditions) to foster moral improvement in human beings. He will also emphasise the ways such a project could backfire and discuss the potential dangers of psychedelic "hype."</p>
<p>Thurs 11 May Seminar 6-7pm, Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>How much for a ticket to the ark? Justice and the end of the world</u> Preventing and mitigating large disasters has an important justice aspect. Disasters harm poor, marginalised and vulnerable people most, and beyond direct devastation they compound injustices. Yet when thinking about existential threats to the survival of the species, justice seems to drop out of the equation: justice requires survivors. Is there a point beyond which justice ceases to matter, or does existential justice exist? This talk from Reuben Fellow Anders Sandberg will explore global catastrophic and existential risks, what we can do about them, and how this relates to justice on the largest scales.</p>
<p>Thurs 18 May Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>Valuing us - Celebrating the innovation that disabled people bring to academia and society</u> In this seminar, Dr Marie Tidball will talk about how the treatment of disabled people in the Covid-19 pandemic made her redouble her academic and political activism to help create a country that values disabled people and closes the inequality gap. She will explore why increasing the inclusion of disabled people in public life, in politics and broadcast TV, in developing inclusive maternity care pathways, inclusive climate change action and in technology is important in creating a more inclusive society. In doing so, she will demonstrate that placing disability, and issues that affect disabled people, at the centre of our teaching and research questions can facilitate better interdisciplinary working and generate exciting innovation.</p>

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<p>Thurs 25 May Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>The joys & challenges of setting up a spin-out company</u> Spin-outs are an impactful way of enabling ideas that originate from research to have real-world commercial impact. Oxford University has more spin-out companies from research than any other UK university. The journey of establishing a spin-out company is full of ups and downs as people from different professions engage with an idea and seek to strengthen and refine it to meet a real need, secure a strong commercial position, raise investment, build a team, and start to deliver on the promise of that original idea. <u>Prof Constantin Coussios</u> will talk about his experience spinning out three companies from the University, the challenges he faced, and what motivates him to be a serial founder.</p>
<p>Thurs 1 June Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>Plant biominerals – A natural form of permanent carbon dioxide removal?</u> This talk from Reuben Fellow <u>Elizabeth Jeffers</u> will address questions about the feasibility and suitability of harnessing plant-based biomineralization for carbon dioxide removal (CDR). How much CDR is possible from terrestrial biominerals? What is the potential ecological cost of harvesting the crystals they produce? Can they be harvested in a way that contributes a net benefit to climate change mitigation without introducing additional environmental impacts? And can we use this form of CDR to protect intact, ancient woodlands?</p>
<p>Thurs 8 June Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>Cull of the Wild - Why we need to talk about killing for conservation</u> Millions of wild animals are killed each year to help conserve other species. Invasive species are recognised by the UN Convention on Biodiversity as one of the most significant threats to biodiversity. Ecologist and author <u>Hugh Warwick</u> sets out to investigate the practical and ethical dimensions of tackling this problem. Have we a right to intervene? Or do we have an obligation? Can exterminating one species to save another be justified?</p>
<p>Thurs 15 June Seminar 6-7pm Dinner 7-9pm</p>	<p><u>End of an era or a new beginning?</u> Join experts from our much-loved Museum of Natural History to hear about endings and new beginnings in deep time, history, and the future.</p> <p><u>Elsa Panciroli</u>, Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow at the Museum and popular science author, will discuss research on early mammals, the end of the dinosaurs, and what happened next. <u>Mark Carnall</u>, Life Collections Manager at the Museum, will talk about the 17th Century extinction of the dodo and explore why this animal became an icon of extinction.</p> <p>There will be a chance to view specimens related to the talks, including the world's only dodo soft-tissue, and mammal fossils from the Jurassic and Palaeogene, from 5.30pm in the lecture theatre.</p>