



2022

Festival
of debate

19 April –
30 May

join the
conversation

A better world is possible. But you don't need us to tell you that.

You also know that doing something about the problems we all face is urgent; that something deep down is wrong with how we treat each other and the planet we all live on.

But what you don't hear often enough is how powerful *you are, where you are*. That you don't need to live in Westminster or be filthy rich to make change—in fact, that's often not where real change starts. You don't hear enough that, *together*, we are going to turn this ship around.

This festival is about the ship we all sail on. It's about discovering and celebrating the differences between us. It's about finding new perspectives, gifts and ideas that carry hope, that give us all a sense of possibility for change in time, and for the betterment of each other.

This festival is about sharing viewpoints and experiences. It's about hearing uncomfortable truths and finding new paths forward. It's about making connections, organising and working together to be the change we want to see, where we want to see it.

As you move through the Festival of Debate this year, whether in online or physical spaces, we hope you enjoy each other and the common ground you find. We hope you realise power together. We hope you name problems and revel in the solutions. We hope you are kind to one another.

We hope you act.

Festival of Debate Team



www.weareopus.org

www.festivalofdebate.com



Welcome to the Festival of Debate 2022. Coordinated by Opus, the festival is a non-partisan programme of events that asks us to explore the most important social, economic, environmental and political issues of the day.

CONTENTS

- 4. STRANDS
- 5. TICKETS & ACCESSIBILITY
- 6. FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS
- 12. APRIL EVENTS
- 14. THE TIME IS NOW HUB DAY
- 17. MAY EVENTS
- 23. THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY HUB DAY
- 28. FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE
- 30. VENUES
- 32. FUNDERS, SPONSORS & PARTNERS

The Festival of Debate is a non-partisan politics festival run in collaboration with over 50 organisations and featuring over 150 individual speakers. As such, the views and opinions expressed during the festival are those of the speakers, and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the festival, or any of our partner organisations.

The Festival of Debate is a broad, open, public debate programme which anyone can join but we do not pretend to be representative of all viewpoints. Festival of Debate is against discrimination and harassment of all kinds.

This year the festival has been programmed to explore three core questions:



How can we respond to the climate crisis and biosphere collapse?



How should our society overcome inequalities of race, gender, sexuality, income and disability?



How can we reimagine our citizenship and our democracy?

We've added colour coded symbols so you can navigate the events by theme.

Tickets for Festival of Debate events are mostly available through our main ticket outlet Eventbrite. 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. Rhyme and Reason will be our bookseller this year.

If you have any questions regarding ticketing, accessibility or how to get to venues, please email hello@festivalofdebate.com. Adult tickets are full price, concession tickets are for people who are unwaged, on a low wage or NHS employees.

If you want to come to any of the festival events but are experiencing a barrier to attending, please get in touch and we'll do all we can to help. Most festival events just ask for donations and we have priced paid tickets as low as we can to cover our costs. We are citizens, not consumers.





STEWART LANSLEY & KATE PICKETT: THE HIGH INEQUALITY-POVERTY CYCLE & HOW TO BREAK IT
Wed 20 April | Online



THE TIME IS NOW HUB DAY
Sat 23 April | Millennium Gallery



HELEN MORT: A LINE ABOVE THE SKY
Sat 23 April | Millennium Gallery



LED BY DONKEYS
Mon 25 April | Sheffield Students' Union

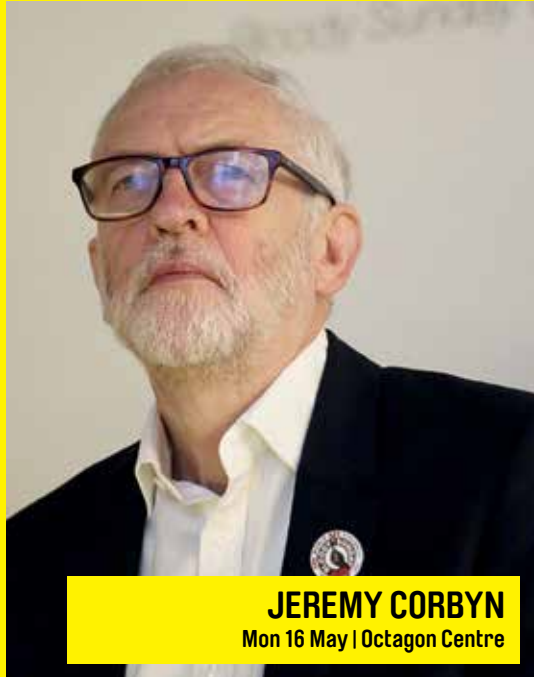


GLORIA STEINEM
Tue 26 April | Online



WHAT IS HISTORY, NOW? WITH HELEN CARR & SUZANNAH LIPSCOMB
Thu 28 April | Online

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



The
Sheffield
College

GO FURTHER AT THE SHEFFIELD COLLEGE

WE STILL HAVE PLACES ON
COURSES FOR SEPTEMBER

APPLY TODAY

Now Then Allies is a new value-led membership network, launching in Sheffield this year.

- It's about bringing organisations and groups together from across sectors to problem solve, impact on the big issues facing our city and thrive as organisations.
- It's for any organisation or group who want to make an impact, problem solve together and who support the values of collaboration, inclusivity and sustainability.
- As an Ally you'll gain access to a shared resources bank, discounted content and marketing services, presence on the Now Then website and regular cross-sector networking and peer-to-peer support meetings.

We believe we can do things differently to build a better Sheffield which we can all benefit from.

Head to nowthenmagazine.com/work-with-us for more information on how to get involved.



NEIGHBOURHOOD
DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

JOIN THE MOVEMENT FOR CITIZENS,
NEIGHBOURHOODS AND THEIR ALLIES.

IF YOU ARE A COMMUNITY GROUP WORKING TO EMPOWER AND ENABLE YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD OR YOUR COMMUNITY WHERE YOU ARE, THIS IS FOR YOU.

IT'S A MOVEMENT TO CREATE REAL DEMOCRACY IN EVERY COMMUNITY AND A REAL SHIFT IN POWER TO LOCAL PEOPLE ACROSS THE UK.

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE HAS A UNIQUE CONTRIBUTION TO MAKE TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND THAT PEOPLE MUST HAVE MORE POWER TO MAKE DECISIONS ON THE ISSUES THAT AFFECT THEM AT EVERY LEVEL.

BY COMING TOGETHER, SHARING WHAT WORKS AND WHAT DOESN'T, WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO FLOURISH.

FIND OUT MORE AND GET IN TOUCH AT
[NEIGHBOURHOODEMOCRACY.ORG](https://neighbourhooddemocracy.org)

SUPPORTED BY





CAUTION! YOUTH AT WORK: YOUNG PEOPLE & EMPLOYMENT IN 2022

Tue 19 April | 5-6:30pm | Star House | Donations
In partnership with Sheffield Futures

Sheffield Young Advisors present Caution! Youth at Work at Festival of Debate 2022. This event will focus on how young people have experienced employment during the Covid-19 pandemic and look at how these experiences could be adjusted as we enter a post-pandemic working environment.



BRITAIN'S 200 YEAR LONG 'HIGH INEQUALITY, HIGH POVERTY CYCLE' AND HOW TO BREAK IT

Wed 20 April | 5:30-6:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Compass

Stewart Lansley and Kate Pickett will explore Britain's 200-year long 'high inequality-poverty' cycle, one broken just once in the post-war years of greater equality. Why does Britain have the second highest level of inequality in the rich world, and what needs to be done to break this socially and economically destructive cycle? The event will be chaired by Frances Foley, Deputy Director of Compass.



INTRODUCING DEMOCRATIC YORKSHIRE

Wed 20 April | 6:45-8pm | Online | Donations

The way Britain is currently governed fails to serve the best interests of Yorkshire. Here we start to look at an alternative approach to governing our county. A new Democratic Yorkshire will unite the county, provide a fair and just society, enable our citizens to fully participate in decision making, and provide hope of a better future for our children.



MANDATORY REDISTRIBUTION PARTY

Thu 21 April | 8-10:15pm | Shakespeares | £8/£5

Join comedians Sean Morley and Jack Evans – hosts of cult-hit, left-comedy podcast Mandatory Redistribution Party – as they serve up a fresh heap of left-wing lore & repartee. Expect exploration into the calamity of late capitalism, performance art pieces on 18th century peasant revolts, and fearless deep dives into the ruthless ideology of this miserable, shivering island.



DEMOCRACY: FROM SHEFFIELD TO WESTMINSTER – MAKING IT DELIBERATIVE & REAL

Fri 22 April | 6-7:30pm | Online | Donations

"Take back control" was the slogan in 2016. But the levers of power remain firmly out of the people's hands in our Westminster-centred, unrepresentative system. Deliberative democracy – deployed in the Climate Assembly, with great success in Ireland on the issues of equal marriage and abortion, and increasing in local areas – offers one positive way forward.



UBI LAB WALES & UBI LAB NORTHERN IRELAND: MAKING CHANGE – FROM ISSUE TO IMPACT

Fri 22 April | 6-7:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with UBI Lab Network

Awareness of Universal Basic Income has shifted from a barely known concept to a front-and-centre potential policy over the last two years. Nowhere has more impressive progress been made than in Wales and Northern Ireland. With the Welsh government now trialling Basic Income and Northern Ireland commissioning a 12month study to pilot a UBI. How has this happened? Who has been involved? What did they do to get us here? Join us to hear the journeys UBI Lab Wales and UBI Lab Northern Ireland have taken in bringing the issues they are passionate about, changing all the way from grassroots conversations to national action.



HELEN MORT: A LINE ABOVE THE SKY – ON MOUNTAINS AND MOTHERHOOD

Sat 23 April | 7:30-8:45pm | Millennium Gallery | £8/£6

Join Helen Mort for the launch of *A Line Above the Sky*, a celebration of the natural world and the freedom and danger it encompasses. Mort unpacks how both womanhood and motherhood characterises her relationship with nature and climbing, and asks – why is the physicality of danger so compelling to us? Helen Mort is an award-winning Sheffield-born poet and novelist.



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



HUB DAY

THE TIME IS NOW: THE CLIMATE & NATURE EMERGENCY IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

SAT 23 APRIL | 11AM – 4PM | MILLENNIUM GALLERY
SUGGESTED DONATION £5



Join us for a one-day conference and hear from the leading climate activists and organisations across South Yorkshire.

Session 1: Where are we now? Climate Initiatives from across South Yorkshire

What is the South Yorkshire regional government body doing to progress the Net Zero target? Yorkshire & Humber Climate Commission will set the scene, ahead of local authority representatives from Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield presenting their best current climate / nature initiatives.

Lunchtime Performances

Take a seat and watch short theatre pieces commissioned by the Arts and Climate Initiative for Climate Change Theatre Action before COP26, performed by people from the local area.

Session 2: The Media, Technology and the Youth Climate Assembly

The Media: help or hindrance in addressing the climate and nature crisis? Young people from The Regional Youth Climate Assembly will lead the audience in questioning a panel of representatives from local and regional print, broadcast and on-line media.

Technology: Will it save us? An initial presentation of ideas followed by facilitated group discussions.

For ticketing, session times and further information please visit
festivalofdebate.com



LED BY DONKEYS

Mon 25 April | 7:30–9pm | Sheffield Students' Union, Nelson Mandela Auditorium | £9/£7

Political activists? Pranksters? Conceptual artists? We think of Led by Donkeys as all of these things, and whilst you'll likely know them best for their large-scale projections of quotes from UK politicians across the Houses of Parliament and the White Cliffs of Dover, join them in person to discuss their myriad other work in holding power to account for acts of "thermonuclear hypocrisy". Chaired by Sara Hill.



ARE THERE REASONS TO BE HOPEFUL DURING A CLIMATE CRISIS?

Tue 26 April | 6–7pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Hope for the Future

Do we still have reasons to be hopeful in a climate crisis? Join us for an hour-long conversation and informal panel discussion to look at where we are in the campaign for climate action, reflect on hope and optimism as motivators, and explore how we can balance this with the need to make faster progress and keep pressure on governments.



CLIMATE JUSTICE & CAPITALISM: SYSTEM CHANGE VS. POCKET CHANGE

Tue 26 April | 6–7:30pm | University of Sheffield Students' Union, Nelson Mandela Auditorium | Donations
In partnership with University of Sheffield Sustainability Committee

How compatible are climate justice and capitalism? The climate crisis clock is fast-ticking, and the political-economic system of capitalism is increasingly being questioned. Taking a broad view of the climate crisis as being at the centre of intersecting systemic issues, the Sustainability Committee at the University of Sheffield Students' Union hosts a debate and Q&A between Professor Michael Jacobs and activist Chris Saltmarsh: can climate justice be achieved within the parameters of capitalism? We delve into the 'de-growth' debate, amongst other questions.



IN CONVERSATION WITH GLORIA STEINEM

Tue 26 April | 7:30–9pm | Online | Donations

Emerging from the radical feminist movement of the 1960s, empowerment icon Gloria Steinem has spent the decades since campaigning relentlessly for gender, social and racial equality through peaceful means. Hear about the influential activist's fascinating and historic journey.

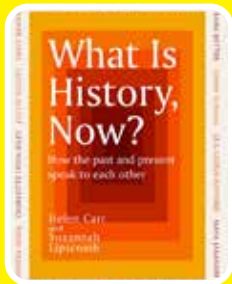




OFFICIAL SECRECY: HOW GOVERNMENT PLANS THREATEN JOURNALISTS & WHISTLEBLOWERS

Thu 28 April | 6-7:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Media North

The government wants to tighten up the Official Secrets Act. The draft proposals contain punitive measures which would criminalise investigative journalists and whistleblowers, and eliminate a 'public interest' defence. A panel of experts delves into the details, unpacking the threats to investigative journalism in the government's plans, and highlighting what we can do to challenge them.



WHAT IS HISTORY, NOW? WITH HELEN CARR & SUZANNAH LIPSCOMB

Thu 28 April | 8-9:15pm | Online | Donations

What is History, Now? is a ground-breaking new collection addressing the burning issue of how we interpret history today. Which stories are told and by whom, who should be celebrated, and what needs to be rewritten are questions that have been at the forefront of current conversation, and are at the centre of this book. Join historian Helen Carr and Professor Suzannah Lipscomb for an evening of conversation about the history book we need NOW.



VIGIL FOR VICTIMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Sun 1 May | 6-7pm | Devonshire Green | Donations
In partnership with the Women's Equality Party Sheffield and Our Bodies Our Streets

The Women's Equality Party and local campaign group Our Bodies Our Streets have come together to organise a vigil for victims of gender-based violence, with speakers, poetry and a chance to come together to reflect, and remember the victims.

**"Empathy is the most radical of human emotions."
Gloria Steinem**



ALLYSHIP 101

Tue 3 May | 2-3:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Corvus Coaching

How to support your LGBTQ+ clients / students / colleagues, and why it matters! Giving you confidence, clarity and concrete actions to help you be the best ally you can be. This short workshop will cover gender identity, sexuality, language use, and common misconceptions, as well as any questions you want to bring.



WATER FOR EVERYONE: SUSTAINABILITY & IMPORTANCE

Tue 3 May | 3:30-5pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures, the University of Sheffield

When the UN's Sustainable Development Goals were established in 2015, SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation was a base goal. In order to explain why, we have an expert panel to share knowledge from different fields to do with water. They will discuss the challenges and opportunities of SDG 6, and there will be time for questions from the audience.



HOW CAN LOCAL MONEY WORK BETTER LOCALLY?

Tue 3 May | 6-7:30pm | Online | Donations

Join us for a conversation about community responses to the rising cost of living. With Sheffield known as one of the 'low pay capitals' of the UK, how can we respond as a city and in our communities? With presentations from a range of sector representatives, we explore the question of how local money and local spending can benefit people who live here more effectively.



THE FUTURE OF THE NEWS

Wed 4 May | 7-8pm | Sheffield Central Library, Carpenter Room
Donations

The landscape of reporting has changed, possibly forever. But while old methods and models pass into history, new ones come to life. This panel brings together local and regional publishers to talk about the challenges and opportunities in delivering community news and public interest journalism in the 21st century.

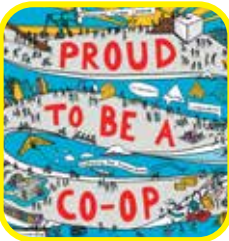




CREATING 100 IDEAS FOR THE NORTH

Sat 7 May | 12-1:30pm | Quaker Meeting House | Donations

Discourse on regional inequalities often focuses on big projects or power structures. Instead, let's co-create 100 small-scale innovations. Projects that can start small, scale up and replicate. From philosophy clubs in Liverpool to arts collectives in Stockton, homeless hostels in Cumbria to record labels in Chester, the North has got some great innovative ideas. Come along and create some more.



THE FUTURE OF COOPERATION

Tue 10 May | 7-9pm | Union St | Donations
In partnership with Principle 5

The world has been polluted, ripped off and brought to its knees by capitalism – so are co-operatives a better solution? Are co-operatives working alone or in a Movement? With this event, we hope to present an opportunity to discuss these issues with co-operative activists, and learn and share ideas.



IT'S TIME TO ACT FOR TRUE SECURITY: THE ENVIRONMENTAL COSTS OF MILITARISATION

Wed 11 May | 12-1:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Sheffield Creative Action for Peace

This event explores the impacts of the military on the environment and climate change, and the need to re-think security. Leona Morgan, an indigenous activist, will speak about the effects of nuclear colonialism on her people and land. Matt Fawcett from Global Campaign on Military Spending UK will speak on the necessity to spend on human needs, not weaponry.



REWILDING: PLANT IT AND THEY WILL COME

Wed 11 May | 4-6pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures, the University of Sheffield

Rewilding is a key tool against biodiversity loss, but what is the best way to restore natural habitats? What effect does reintroducing animals have?

How do we combat invasive species? Importantly, what policy and economic tools can incentivise rewilding? This debate brings together an expert panel to both introduce and argue points around rewilding, supplemented by questions from the audience.



LIFE OR DEBT: BIG MONEY, INJUSTICE & THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CRISIS

Wed 11 May | 7-9pm | Quaker Meeting House | Donations
In partnership with Global Justice Sheffield

The debt crisis in the Global South is preventing countries like Zambia from fighting the climate crisis. Debt repayments are draining resources needed for health and education. Jubilee Debt Campaign's Executive Director Heidi Chow reveals how Global North private lenders are fuelling the debt crisis, and leads discussion about the action needed – immediate debt cancellation, and the challenge of transformative change.



PEER SUPPORT ALL OVER THE WORLD

Thu 12 May | 1-2:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Citizen Network

Let's create a global network of peer support! Join this event to launch a new action of people supporting people, locally and globally. How can we create a world where everyone matters? What is peer support and what can we learn from peer support action and models around the world? This event is hosted by Citizen Network, Kukunori, PFG Doncaster and many other peer support activists. The event is a hybrid event happening in Sheffield and online, so you can take part everywhere.



WHAT HAS THE BBC EVER DONE FOR US?

Thu 12 May | 6-7:30pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Media North

The Culture Secretary Nadine Dorries announced in January that the current BBC licence fee would be frozen for two years, and declared on Twitter that it would end in 2027. Her attacks on the BBC have a new intensity, amplified by BBC-bashing newspapers. This session will present the case for the BBC's continued existence, and also propose policies to reform the BBC to ensure its independence. The panel will feature Patrick Barwise, Dorothy Byrne, Dr Tom Mills and Paulette Edwards.



“Progress is measured by the speed at which we destroy the conditions that sustain life.”

George Monbiot



GROWING FOR INVERTEBRATES

Thu 12 May | 7-8:15pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures, the University of Sheffield

Growing your own food is lots of fun, whether it's in a window box, garden or allotment. We will discuss how homegrown food can create havens of diversity for invertebrates, and how food-growing practices can be optimised without compromising crop success. We'll be joined by a panel of academics and local growers.



TRADE UNIONS: FIGHTING BACK IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Thu 12 May | 7-9pm | Central United Reform Church | Donations
In partnership with Sheffield Trades Union Council

Join us as we explore how best to rebuild organisation and power by people on the ground, through bringing together the workplace and the wider community. Our speakers for the evening are Martin Mayer, Sheffield TUC; Heather Blakey, Unite Community; Olivier Tsemo, SADACCA; Muna Taha, Hadfield Institute; Jesse Palmer, Sheffield Needs A Payrise / SNAP; Ci Davis, XR; and a representative from the People's Assembly Against Austerity. There will be presentations followed by a discussion.



RECLAIM THE CAMPUS: A REFLECTION ON TWO YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING ON RAPE CULTURE IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Sat 14 May | 3-4pm | Showroom Workstation | Donations
In partnership with Reclaim the Campus

Reclaim the Campus is a campaign run by students and recent graduates, for students – to address the issue of sexual harassment and assault in Higher Education. Over the past few years we have been looking into the issue from a student and survivor perspective – a viewpoint we want to share with those within the sector and work alongside other groups to address.



JEREMY CORBYN

Mon 16 May | 7:30-9pm | Octagon Centre | £8/£6

Join the former leader of the Labour Party and founder of the Peace & Justice Project, Jeremy Corbyn, at the Festival of Debate in Sheffield for a discussion and Q&A on his decades in Parliament, years as Labour leader, his role in the UK's anti-war movement and the work of the Peace & Justice Project, and the campaigns it has created for social, economic and climate justice in the UK and around the world. Supported by Gav Roberts.



CHILD OF THE NORTH: INEQUALITY AFTER COVID

Tue 17 May | 6-7:15pm | The Circle | Free
In partnership with Healthwatch Sheffield

Children in the North are more likely to live in poverty than those in the rest of England – and inequalities have widened after the pandemic. Join our expert panel in exploring this subject, its impact on communities in Sheffield, and what can be done to make a difference. Experts will include representatives from young people's organisations, Julia Thompson – Sheffield City Council, Public Health, and Professor Sarah Salway – University of Sheffield and contributing author of the N8 Child of the North report. Hosted by Healthwatch Sheffield.



LET'S TALK ABOUT AIR POLLUTION

Wed 18 May | 5-7pm | Firvale Community Hub | Donations
In partnership with Burngreave Clean Air

This event invites a public discussion on illegal levels of dangerous air pollution in Burngreave and Fir Vale. We hope to explore why air pollution is an urgent issue for this area and how we might tackle it together. There will be a panel opening up the discussion, and time for people to talk in smaller groups. Everyone is very welcome.



TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT TACTICAL VOTING?

Wed 18 May | 7-9:30pm | Union St | Donations
In partnership with Compass

Our current government is undermining liberal democracy, creating divisions in our society and failing to address the climate crisis. Surely more unites those of us who deplore this than divides us? Join this panel of national speakers, Dagenham and Rainham Labour MP Jon Cruddas, journalist Zoe Williams and more, discussing a common agenda for progressive parties and tactical voting options (by webinar), followed by an in-person discussion of how we should respond.



"We can create a new kind of politics: kinder, more respectful, but courageous, too."

Jeremy Corbyn



TIME FOR A NEW DEMOCRACY?

Thu 19 May | 5:30–7pm | Online | Donations
In partnership with Sheffield for Democracy

Time for a new democracy? Some commentators suggest democracy in this country is undergoing a crisis, while others claim it is evolving to reflect societal changes. A panel of speakers will reflect on the current state of democracy, suggest what key changes are needed, and address how democracy can be deepened to include voices that at present feel 'unheard'.



IT'S LIKE RUBBING SALT ON THE WOUND

Thu 19 May | 6:30–8pm | Victoria Hall Methodist Church | Donations
In partnership with ASSIST Sheffield

Seeking asylum in the UK is hard. Throughout the pandemic it has been even harder. We hear from the authors of a report by Newcastle University about the experience of people seeking sanctuary across the UK. We will be offering thoughts, ideas and opportunities to discuss how we can support people seeking asylum in our city.



DAVID WENGROW: THE DAWN OF EVERYTHING – A NEW HISTORY OF HUMANITY

Thu 19 May | 7:30–9pm | Sheffield Students' Union, Nelson Mandela Auditorium | £9/£7

How we see our ancestors shapes our understanding of humankind, whether we cast them as primitive, or childlike and free. But these stories are relatively new – *The Dawn of Humanity* by David Graeber and David Wengrow exposes the falsity of these theories, and explores how and why they arose. Join Wengrow on an unexpected journey through history that challenges assumptions, presenting a path towards new forms of freedom. David Wengrow is Professor of Comparative Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London. Chaired by Dr Caroline Pennock – University of Sheffield



HOW CAN WE EAT AND LIVE? FOOD, CLIMATE & HEALTH

Fri 20 May | 6–7:30pm | Online | Donations

Wrapped in plastic, low in nutrients, high in calories and 50 per cent of the UK diet: does ultra-processed food have any place in a healthy diet? How do we ensure everyone has realistic access to fresh vegetables and fruit? How can local food build prosperity and security?



HUB DAY THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

SAT 21 MAY | 10:30AM–5PM | SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL
SUGGESTED DONATION £5

In partnership with The Convention



Join us in Sheffield Town Hall as we make space to get inspired and create the future we want for democracy.

Co-curated by author and activist Jon Alexander.

Focusing on what could be in the future, not just what's wrong now, we'll get inspiration from experts and experimenters from the other side of the world, and from right here in Sheffield. Democracy might be in crisis, but it's also true that a whole new idea of democracy is taking shape – and our city could be at the heart of it.

We'll learn how Chilean citizens are getting involved in rewriting their nation's constitution, and why the city of Paris now has both a standing Citizens' Assembly and 100 million euros a year of participatory budgeting, as well as hearing how the transformational movement for "neighbourhood democracy" is getting going right here in Sheffield.

There'll also be plenty of time to get stuck in yourself, and be part of making it happen.

Featuring **Ece Temelkuran, Shami Chakrabarti, Jackie Weaver, Olivia Blake MP, Camila Vergara** and many more.

For ticketing, session times and further information please visit
festivalofdebate.com



BE PERIOD POSITIVE & OWN YOUR PERIOD: CHELLA QUINT IN CONVERSATION WITH PAULETTE EDWARDS

Fri 20 May | 7:30–8:30pm | Online | Donations

In partnership with Period Positive

Double book launch! Paint the town red and celebrate the launch of not one – but two! – critically acclaimed books by Period Positive founder Chella Quint, in conversation with BBC Radio Sheffield's Paulette Edwards. What's period positivity? How can we make menstrual literacy fun and inclusive for everyone who's ever lived inside a womb? Find out in this online hour exploring a bleeding important topic.



FESTIVAL OF DEBATE DOES QUESTION TIME WITH JACKIE WEAVER

Sat 21 May | 7–8:30pm | Sheffield Town Hall | £8/£6

Trust, accountability and transparency is key to the functioning of any local democracy. This is known more than most by our host for the evening for a Question Time-style event, Jackie Weaver. Jackie shot to fame after presiding over a chaotic meeting of Handforth Parish Council which went viral. Panellists will be announced via reading the standing orders on our website.



RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SHEFFIELD'S RACE EQUALITY COMMISSION

Mon 23 May | 7:30–9pm | Millennium Gallery | Donations

In partnership with the Race Equality Commission

The Race Equality Commission was established in Summer 2020 to provide an independent strategic assessment of the nature, extent, causes and impacts of racism and race inequality within the city. Join us for an event to

discuss the report's recommendations and how best to achieve them with the REC chair Kevin Hylton and representatives from the city's local institutions and community organisations.

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



CORROSION: THE \$2.5 TRILLION DOLLAR PROBLEM (NOT TO MENTION THE ENVIRONMENTAL & HUMAN COST)

Tue 24 May | 5–6pm | Online | Donations

In partnership with the Grantham Centre for Sustainable Futures, the University of Sheffield

Corrosion of materials used in buildings, engineering projects and machinery can be dangerous. Environmental disasters caused by corrosion include the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Corrosion also involves huge consumption of natural resources. However, by understanding corrosion's causes, steps can be taken to combat it. Join our expert panel to learn more about this fascinating topic.



KEEPING SHEFFIELD'S 'SELDOM HEARD COMMUNITIES' SAFE IN THE TIME OF COVID

Tue 24 May | 7:15–8:45pm | Online | Donations

In partnership with Sheffield Community Contact Tracers

This session will hear community leaders from Sheffield's Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities discuss ways that their community groups have helped Sheffield's most disadvantaged citizens during the Covid pandemic. The session will show a documentary highlighting community level work to counter vaccine hesitancy, followed by a panel discussion about general lessons learnt during the pandemic.



SHON FAYE: THE TRANSGENDER ISSUE

Tue 24 May | 7:30–9pm | Sheffield Students' Union, Nelson Mandela Auditorium | £9/£7

In partnership with Andro & Eve

In Britain today, trans people make up less than 1% of the population – and yet they are the subject matter of relentless, dehumanising 'debate'. Join Shon Faye in discussion of her debut *The Transgender Issue*, which cuts through the media frenzy and reveals that we have been having the wrong conversation for far too long. Shon Faye is a writer, journalist, editor, presenter, and host of the podcast *Call Me Mother*. Chaired by Finn Warman.



“Although visibility helps redress a representational inequality, it does nothing on its own to achieve redistributive justice.”
Shon Faye



DON'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO ABOUT COVID! A DEBATE ABOUT INFORMATION, MISINFORMATION & TRUST

Wed 25 May | 6-7:30pm | Online | Donations

In partnership with Sheffield Community Contact Tracers

The Covid-19 pandemic has been plagued not only by the SARS-COV-2 virus but also by what the World Health Organisation (WHO) has termed an 'INFODEMIC' of too much, false or misleading information. During the pandemic, Sheffield Community Contact Tracers (SCCT) have delivered accessible information to anyone who would listen. A panel and audience will debate these issues.



CHANGE FROM WITHIN: THE RACIAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT COMBATting RACISM IN THE VAWG SECTOR

Wed 25 May | 6-8pm | Online | Donations

What are the intersecting oppressions experienced by Black and minoritized survivors within a VAWG (violence against women and girls) context? How is institutional racism and wider bias perpetrated and upheld by the services supposed to offer support and justice? In what ways can Black Feminist frameworks curate a landscape for intersectionality, abolition and decolonisation? Why is the activism of By and For grassroots movements integral to creating transformative change? Join Evie Muir and a panel of experts advocating for Anti-Racism within the VAWG sector in an uncomfortable but necessary conversation, to inspire revolutionary change.



ARMANDO IANNUCCI: PANDEMONIUM – SOME VERSES ON THE CURRENT PREDICAMENT

Thu 26 May | 7:30-9pm | Leadmill | £12/£10

From the man who first brought us Alan Partridge, then later won global plaudits for his work on both *The Thick of It* and *Veep*, comes *Pandemonium: Some Verses on the Current Predicament*. Join us as we delve into this scalpel-sharp mock epic, born out of the emotional tempests and contradictions Covid-19 has forced upon us. Chaired by Auriel Majumdar.



THE CRIMINALISATION OF GYPSIES & TRAVELLERS

Fri 27 May | 1:30-3:30pm | Showroom Cafe Bar | Donations
In partnership with York Travellers Trust

A safe space conversation exploring who Gypsies and Travellers are, and what impact will/does the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill have upon the communities and the systems which surround them. The session will allow open and honest dialogue exploring a group of communities who are often demonised or romanticised.



HOW CAN WE CREATE AN AUTISM-INCLUSIVE SHEFFIELD?

Mon 30 May | 1-2pm | Online | Donations

In partnership with the Sheffield Autism Partnership Network

With the central government releasing the long awaited Autism Strategy, Sheffield is now tasked with implementing a local strategy for its Autistic communities. The Sheffield Autism Partnership Network (SAPN) is a network of Voluntary, Community, Private and Public sector organisations who work with Autistic and Asperger people and their families to collaborate and share ideas to create a better Sheffield and world for Autistic people.



GEORGE MONBIOT: REGENESIS

Thu 23 June | 7:30-9pm | Octagon Centre | £10/£8

Destroying habitats, reducing biodiversity, driving global warming: these are just a few of the problems we have come to associate with intensive farming, even while millions starve globally. George Monbiot's *Regenesi*s uncovers a hopeful possible future for food – one of abundance, nourishment and rewilding. Join George for a glimpse into this future, and discover the hidden universe in the soil that could change everything. George Monbiot is an author, journalist, political activist and keen environmentalist, with a weekly column in *The Guardian*. Chaired by Duncan Cameron – University of Sheffield.



"The busier you are, the less time you have to make decisions."

Armando Iannucci

For more information and ticket links, go to festivalofdebate.com

facebook.com/FestivalOfDebate | @FestOfDebate

Tue 19 April	Caution! Youth at Work: Young People & Employment in 2022	Inequality
Wed 20 April	Britain's 200-Year Long 'High Inequality, High Poverty Cycle' & How to Break it	Inequality
Wed 20 April	Introducing Democratic Yorkshire	Democracy
Thu 21 April	Mandatory Redistribution Party	Democracy
Fri 22 April	UBI Lab Wales & UBI Lab Northern Ireland: Making Change – From Issue to Impact	Inequality
Fri 22 April	Democracy: From Sheffield to Westminster – Making it Deliberative & Real	Democracy
Sat 23 April	The Time is Now: The Climate & Nature Emergency in South Yorkshire	Climate
Sat 23 April	Helen Mort: A Line Above the Sky – On Mountains and Motherhood	Climate
Mon 25 April	Led By Donkeys	Democracy
Tue 26 April	Are There Reasons to be Hopeful During a Climate Crisis?	Climate
Tue 26 April	Climate Justice & Capitalism: System Change vs. Pocket Change	Climate
Tue 26 April	In Conversation with Gloria Steinem	Inequality
Thu 28 April	Official Secrecy: How Government Plans Threaten Journalists & Whistleblowers	Democracy
Thu 28 April	What is History, Now? with Helen Carr & Suzannah Lipscomb	Inequality
Sun 1 May	Vigil for Victims of Gender-Based Violence	Inequality
Tue 3 May	Allyship 101	Inequality
Tue 3 May	Water For Everyone: Sustainability & Importance	Climate
Tue 3 May	How Can Local Money Work Better Locally?	Inequality
Wed 4 May	The Future of the News	Democracy
Sat 7 May	Creating 100 Ideas for the North	Democracy
Tue 10 May	The Future of Cooperation	Democracy
Wed 11 May	It's Time to Act for True Security: The Environmental Costs of Militarisation	Climate
Wed 11 May	Rewilding: Plant it and They Will Come	Climate
Wed 11 May	Life Or Debt: Big Money, Injustice and the Global Climate Crisis	Climate
Thu 12 May	Peer Support All Over the World	Democracy

Thu 12 May	What Has The BBC Ever Done For Us?	Inequality
Thu 12 May	Growing for Invertebrates	Climate
Thu 12 May	Trade Unions: Fighting Back in Our Communities	Democracy
Sat 14 May	Reclaim the Campus: A Reflection on Two Years of Campaigning on Rape Culture in Higher Education Institutions	Inequality
Mon 16 May	Jeremy Corbyn	Democracy
Tue 17 May	Child of the North: Inequality After Covid	Inequality
Wed 18 May	Time to Get Serious About Tactical Voting?	Democracy
Wed 18 May	Let's Talk About Air Pollution	Climate
Thu 19 May	It's Like Rubbing Salt on the Wound	Inequality
Thu 19 May	David Wengrow: The Dawn of Everything – A New History of Humanity	Inequality
Thu 19 May	Time For a New Democracy?	Democracy
Fri 20 May	How Can We Eat and Live? Food, Climate & Health	Climate
Fri 20 May	Double Book Launch! Be Period Positive and Own Your Period: Chella Quint in Conversation with Paulette Edwards	Inequality
Sat 21 May	The Future of Democracy Hub Day	Democracy
Sat 21 May	Festival of Debate Does Question Time with Jackie Weaver	Democracy
Mon 23 May	Recommendations from Sheffield's Race Equality Commission	Inequality
Tue 24 May	Keeping Sheffield's 'Seldom Heard Communities' Safe in the Time of Covid	Inequality
Tue 24 May	Shon Faye: The Transgender Issue	Inequality
Tue 24 May	Corrosion: The \$2.5 Trillion Dollar Problem (Not to Mention the Environmental & Human Cost)	Climate
Wed 25 May	Don't Tell Me What to Do About Covid: A Debate about Information, Misinformation & Trust	Democracy
Wed 25 May	Change from Within: The Racial Justice Movement Combatting Racism in the VAWG Sector	Inequality
Thu 26 May	Armando Iannucci: Pandemonium – Some Verses on the Current Predicament	Democracy
Fri 27 May	The Criminalisation of Gypsies & Travellers	Inequality
Mon 30 May	How Can We Create an Autism-Inclusive Sheffield?	Inequality
Thu 23 June	George Monbiot: Regeneration	Climate

CENTRAL UNITED REFORM CHURCH

60 NORFOLK ST, S1 2JB

**THE CIRCLE**

33 ROCKINGHAM LN, S1 4FW

**DEVONSHIRE GREEN**

158 DEVONSHIRE ST, S1 4GT

**FIR VALE COMMUNITY HUB**

127 PAGE HALL RD, S4 8GU

**THE LEADMILL**

6 LEADMILL RD, S1 4SE

**MILLENNIUM GALLERY**

ARUNDEL GATE, S1 2PP

**THE OCTAGON CENTRE**

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

CLARKSON ST, S10 2TQ

**QUAKER MEETING HOUSE**

10 ST JAMES' ST, S1 2EW

**SHAKESPEARES**

146-148 GIBALTAR ST, S3 8UB

**SHEFFIELD CENTRAL LIBRARY**

SURREY ST, S1 1XZ

**SHEFFIELD TOWN HALL**

PINSTONE ST, S1 2HH

**SHOWROOM WORKSTATION**

15 PATERNOSTER ROW, S1 2BX

**STAR HOUSE**

43 DIVISION ST, S1 4GE

**SU AUDITORIUM**

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD STUDENTS' UNION

WESTERN BANK, S10 2TG

**UNION ST**

18-20 UNION ST, S1 2JP

**VICTORIA HALL METHODIST CHURCH**

NORFOLK ST, S1 2TBS1 1WB

**ACCESSIBILITY KEY**

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.

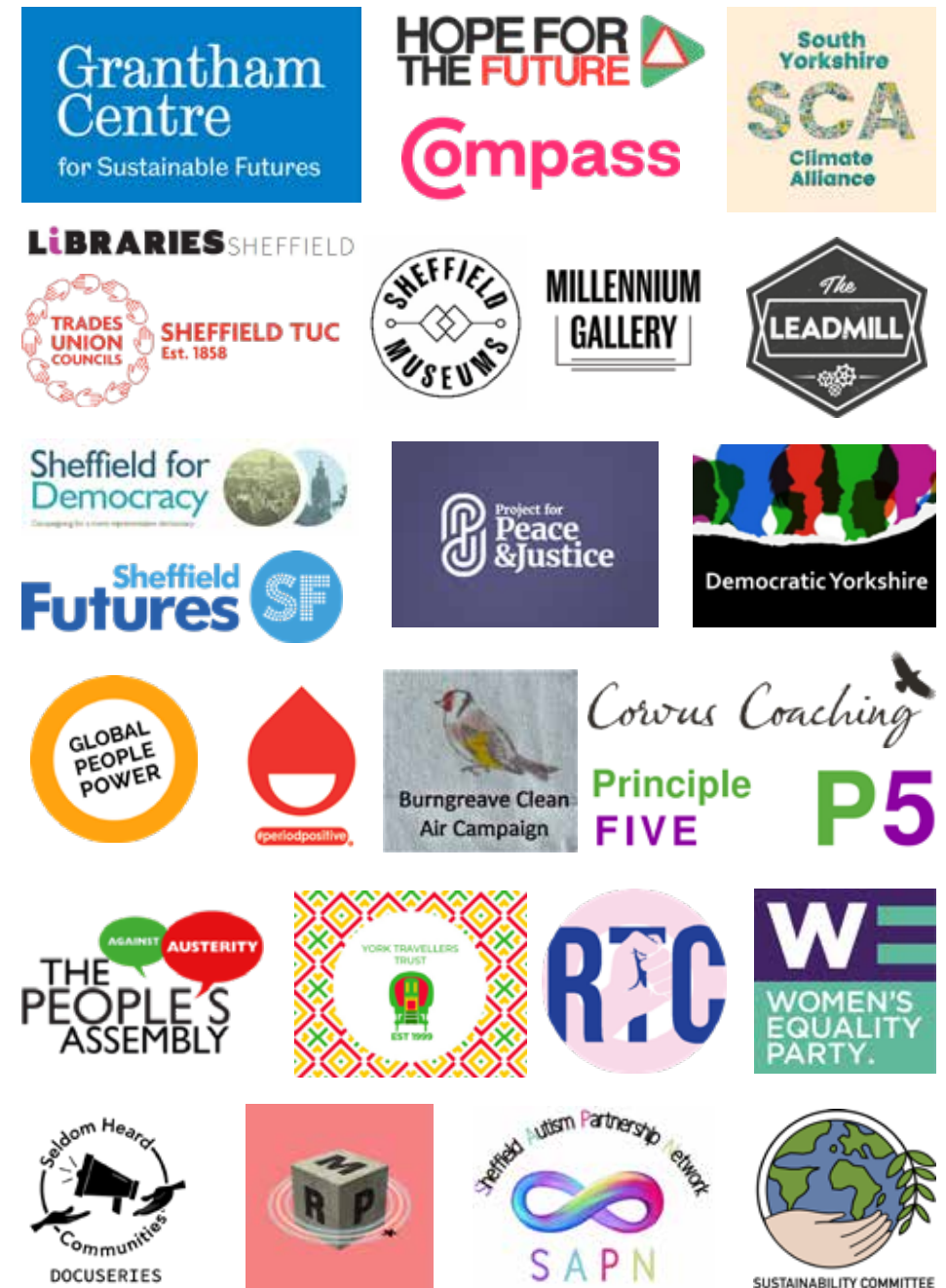
If you have any access requirements, please contact us (hello@festivalofdebate.com) or the venue directly to ensure your visit is comfortable. We've tried to make this venue guide as accurate as possible. More information is available at accessible.co.uk.

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.

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.



PARTNERS



“I am quite confident that even as the oceans boil, and the hurricanes beat violently against our once safe shores, and the air sweats with the heat of impending doom, and our fists protest the denial of climate justice, that there is a path to take that has nothing to do with victory or defeat: a place we do not yet know the coordinates to; a question we do not yet know how to ask. The point of the departed arrow is not merely to pierce the bullseye and carry the trophy: the point of the arrow is to sing the wind and remake the world in the brevity of flight. There are things we must do, sayings we must say, thoughts we must think, that look nothing like the images of success that have so thoroughly possessed our visions of justice.

May this new decade be remembered as the decade of the strange path, of the third way, of the broken binary, of the traversal disruption, the kairotic moment, the posthuman movement for emancipation, the gift of disorientation that opened up new places of power, and of slow limbs. May this decade bring more than just solutions, more than just a future – may it bring words we don’t know yet, and temporalities we have not yet inhabited. May we be slower than speed could calculate, and swifter than the pull of the gravity of words can incarcerate. And may we be visited so thoroughly, and met in wild places so overwhelmingly, that we are left undone. Ready for composting. Ready for the impossible.

Welcome to the decade of the fugitive.”

Bayo Akomolafe

Opus contributes **upstream solutions** to **urgent and complex system problems**.

Since 2008, we’ve hosted platforms, networks, services and projects like **Now Then Magazine**, **UBI Lab Network** and **Festival of Debate** – they connect us to each other and to culture, ideas, action and conversations that will make change.

Our work joins up and amplifies social causes, arts and culture, not-for-profits, emerging talent, active citizenship and community participation, from the hyperlocal to the international.

We work across disciplines and sectors to collaborate with communities, independent businesses, voluntary groups, cities, campaigns, research institutions, infrastructure organisations and governments to look at the entangled ecological, social, economic, political and cultural crisis we collectively face.



Find out more and get involved at www.weareopus.org

Over 50 events.

Talk.

Listen.

Connect.

Debate.

Hope.

Make change.

Book now.

www.festivalofdebate.com