

# Catalysis

THE DOWNING COLLEGE ENDOWMENT CAMPAIGN

We have called our Endowment Fundraising Campaign "Catalysis" because it encapsulates the process of change and the interaction of different elements and energy sources which are key to securing the future of Downing. The College's endowment supplies the stable foundation essential for all our operations: it is the principal source of 'energy' that underlies the process of catalysis, enabling us to educate generations of young people, transforming the lives of individuals, and, through their actions, influencing the wider world.

This year's Catalysis Conference theme is Space and Time and will include talks by leading College and University academics dealing with concepts of time and space from astrophysics to the ancient world, to the mind and brain. The Conference therefore hopes to achieve one of the Catalysis Campaign's fundamental aims: to provide an environment that links apparently disparate disciplines, fostering understanding and the cross-fertilisation of ideas.

## CATALYSIS CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Catalysis Conference 2013 - Gifford Combs

Catalysis Conference 2012 - Humphrey Battcock,  
Maria and David Willetts

Catalysis Conference 2011 - Humphrey Battcock,  
Maria and David Willetts

Telephone: 01223 334850

Email: [development@dow.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@dow.cam.ac.uk)

Website: [www.downingcambridge.com](http://www.downingcambridge.com)

## SPACE AND TIME

### THE THIRD CATALYSIS CONFERENCE

22 – 24 MARCH 2013



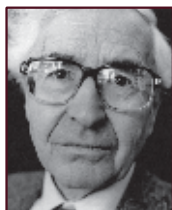
DOWNING COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE

Friday 22 March

# Welcome to Downing

6.00pm: Arrival of guests; pick up room keys  
7.15pm: Pre-Dinner Reception, Master's Lodge  
7.45pm: High Table Dinner in the Hall  
10.00pm: Bar

Saturday 23 March



8.00am: Breakfast in the Hall

## The Howard Theatre

8.45am: **Welcome and Introduction**

Professor Barry Everitt ScD FRS, FMedSci  
Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience and Master of Downing College

9.00am: **What's the Time, Professor Einstein?**

Dr Peter Duffett-Smith  
Vice Master and Senior Fellow. Reader in Experimental Radio Physics

*The answer to this question is stranger than you think. Put aside our notions of common sense and prejudice based on every day experience and be led instead by a series of logical deductions from two hypotheses to discover that time is not the universal and regular quantity that we think but depends on how we are moving.*

9.45am: Discussion

10.00am: **The luxuriant garden: revealing the secrets of the Universe**

Professor Chris Haniff  
Fellow of Downing College and Professor of Physics

*Over the centuries, our view of where we sit in the Universe has been altered by how much of its detail we can discern. As alluded to by William Herschel, can we see only a single plant or do modern telescopes reveal "a luxuriant garden, which contains the greatest variety of productions, in different flourishing beds"? Professor Haniff will trace this 400 year old voyage of discovery, from its beginnings to the next generation of billion dollar giants, due to arrive in the 2020s.*

10.45am: Discussion

11.00am: Coffee, Grace Howard Room

11.30am: **Little Green Men**

Professor Antony Hewish  
Nobel Laureate

*Strange signals were recorded by a new radio telescope near Cambridge in 1964, and for a time staff members of the Observatory wondered how they would tell the World about the existence of alien life in the Universe. Nobel prize-winner Antony Hewish, will give a personal account of the discovery of Pulsars, and how it has provided us with a network of precise cosmic clocks spread throughout our Galaxy.*

12.15am: Discussion

12.30am: Discussion and Overview

1.00pm: Lunch in the Grace Howard Room

2.00pm: **The Ancient Greeks and Their Ambivalent Relationship with Time**

Dr Paul Millett  
Collins Fellow of Downing College. University Senior Lecturer in Classics

*The Greeks (or some of them) enjoyed playing with time, including philosophical paradoxes, elaborate waterclocks, and prototype computers. But their reluctance to develop practical aspects of measuring time and timekeeping may point to an institutional weakness in their collective culture, imposing limits on the reach of their civilization. Dr Millett will explore the implications of the apparent disjunction between theory and practice in the Greeks' relationship with time.*

2.45pm: Discussion

3.00pm: **About There, or Thereabouts**

Professor Steve Connor  
Grace 2 Professor of English and Fellow of Peterhouse

*Martin Heidegger defined existence as Dasein – or 'being there'. The experience of the last two centuries has progressively dissolved the bond between being and place; increasingly, we seem to make our home in mid-air conditions, with connection replacing location. Professor Connor's talk will examine the ways in which the art, literature and architecture of the last century helped to habituate us to experiences of space and place, in Gertrude Stein's words, 'there is no there there'*

3.45pm: Discussion

4.00pm: Tea

4.30pm: **The Creative Navigator's Compass**

Professor Nicola S. Clayton FRS FSB FAPS  
Fellow of Clare College and Professor of Comparative Cognition and writer, artist and teacher Mr Clive Wilkins

*Within us there is a hidden compass that orientates us in space and time, allowing us to re-live our memories and pre-experience future scenarios. This process of imagination is both disadvantageous and opportunistic in equal measure – for imagination impedes and disorients memories, whilst also creating multiple realities that can coexist side by side. But are we unique among the animal kingdom in travelling mentally in time?*

5.30pm: Discussion and Overview

7.00pm: Pre-Dinner Reception

7.30pm: High Table Dinner with Speakers and Fellows in the Hall

10.00pm: Bar

8.00am: Breakfast in the Hall

9.00am: **The Catalysis Campaign: Higher Education and Philanthropy, SCR**

*The Senior Bursar will give an overview of the current financial climate in higher education and the impact of the Catalysis Campaign on the College's future. Several donors will discuss the motivation behind their support and will lead a conversation about philanthropy and higher education today.*



Sunday 24 March