

# Science, Imagination and Wonder: Robert Grosseteste and His Legacy

Pembroke College, University of Oxford  
April 3rd - 6th, 2018



We warmly welcome all delegates attending the Ordered Universe Conference Science, Imagination and Wonder: Robert Grosseteste and his Legacy. The Conference is taking place in association with the International Robert Grosseteste Society, whose partnership the Ordered Universe is privileged to enjoy. We are particularly grateful to our keynote speakers – Professors Jim Al-Khalili, Simon Oliver, Suzanne Akbari, and John Milbank – and to all of our delegates; many of whom have travelled considerable distances.

The Ordered Universe project began in 2010 at Durham University, as a collaboration between sciences and humanities, focused on medieval scientific writings. Moving swiftly to the shorter scientific writings of Robert Grosseteste, the project has steadily expanded in terms of institutional partners, individual participants and in the disciplines that coalesce and convene three or four times a year for collaborative reading and thinking on the texts in question. The current funding programme from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, UK, is held jointly between the universities of Durham and Oxford, with the involvement of the University of Rome, Tor Vergata, Georgetown University, the American University of Beirut, McGill University, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, the Universities of York, Cambridge, Sunderland, Reading, and Milan.

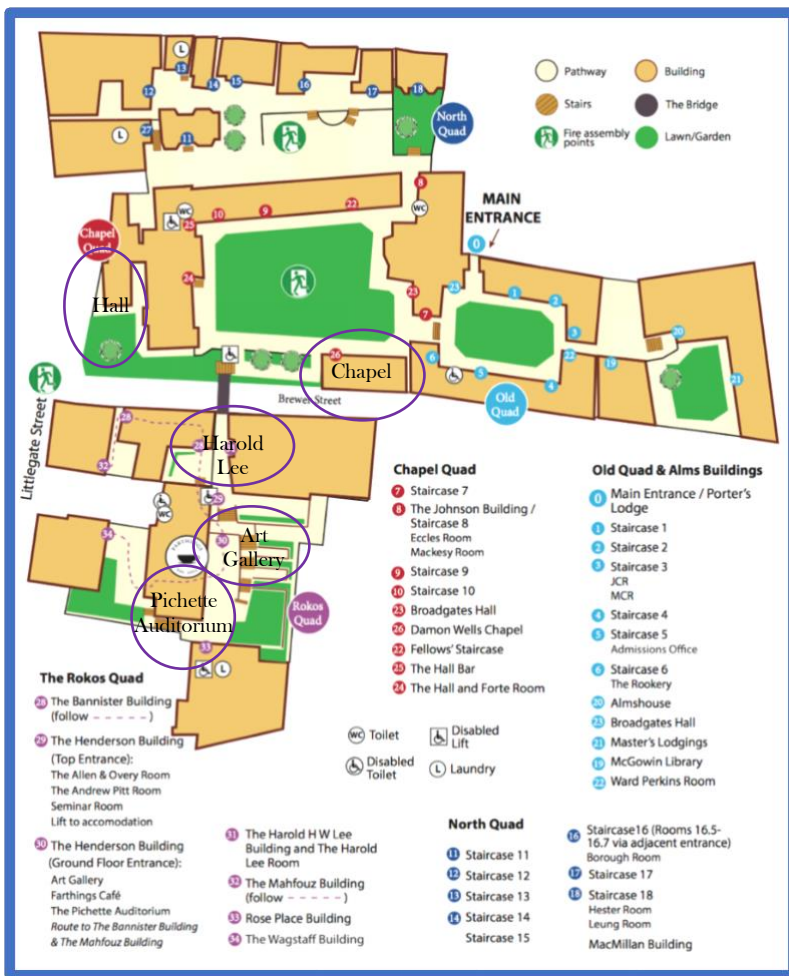
The collaborative reading symposia, twenty so far, are the life-blood of the project; occasions where diverse disciplinary perspectives focus on Grosseteste's work. From this we develop a wide range of further collaboration: edition and translations of the scientific opuscula in a series with Oxford University Press, new scientific ideas published in leading journals, contribution to conferences and seminars across the participating fields, collaboration with artists from glass to film projection, photography and sculpture, spin-out projects in education, twin-PhD projects between arts and humanities, and access to university initiatives, and a long-running commitment to public education through talks, festivals, and interactive exhibitions. Some 167 people from undergraduates to emeriti have engaged directly with the project, academics and non-academics alike, with many more through our outreach activities. For more information see [www.ordered-universe.com](http://www.ordered-universe.com).

This conference brings together all of the strands that make up the research project and is a major event within the current programme. We are delighted to include an exhibition of work from the National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland, made in response to Grosseteste's scientific works, with a photographic display from Rosie Reed Gold, and photos and an on-site installation from Alexandra Carr. This, in addition to panels that range from the reception of Aristotle, to the historical and social context of the early thirteenth century, Grosseteste and pedagogy, modern psychology of perception, art history, computer modelling, cosmology, interdisciplinarity and so much more, as you will see in the programme.

We are grateful to Pembroke College for hosting the Conference, and in particular, to Alex Cox and the Events Team, for continued support with organisation and planning. During your stay, we encourage you to visit the College Chapel to see the Conference Installation by Alexandra Carr, and the Pembroke Art Gallery to see the Conference Exhibition 'Light Embodied', curated by Clara Chivers, with materials from the College special collections alongside the artwork.

The International Robert Grosseteste Society exists to exchange and publicly disseminate information about Robert Grosseteste. To this end, it arranges international conferences and encourages scholarly publication on Grosseteste. Membership is open to any scholar with an interest in any aspect of Grosseteste's life and work and there are no membership fees. For more information contact Dr John Flood ([j.flood@rug.nl](mailto:j.flood@rug.nl)).

# MAP OF LOCATIONS WITHIN PEMBROKE COLLEGE



Pembroke College  
 St Aldate's, Oxford, OX1 1DW, UK  
 The main College switchboard number is:  
**Tel: 01865 276444**

## CONFERENCE TIMELINE

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

12:00	Registration	Auditorium Foyer Pembroke College (PC)
<i>Individual Arrangements for Lunch</i>		
14:30-14:50	Welcome	Pichette Auditorium (PC)
15:00-16:45	Session 1	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
<i>Delegates to make their way to the Weston Library for the Keynote and Public Lecture – arrive by 17:15</i>		
17:30-18:30	Keynote Lecture: <i>Prof. Jim Al-Khalili</i>	Weston Library Lecture Theatre
18:30-19:15	Drinks Reception	Weston Library Blackwell Hall
19:45	Dinner	Hall (PC)

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

08:00-08:45	Breakfast	Hall (PC)
09:00-10:00	Keynote Lecture: <i>Prof. Simon Oliver</i>	Pichette Auditorium (PC)
10:15-11:45	Session 2	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
12:00-13:00	Lunch	Hall (PC)
13:15-14:45	Session 3	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
14:45-15:15	Coffee/Tea	
15:15-16:45	Session 4	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
17:00-18:00	Committee Meeting IRGS	Harold Lee Room (PC)
17:00-18:00	Guided Tour of Exhibition (optional)	Art Gallery (PC)

*Individual Arrangements for Dinner*

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April

08:00-09:00	Breakfast	Hall (PC)
09:30-10:30	Session 5	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
10:30-11:00	Coffee/Tea	
11:00-12:30	Session 6	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
12:30-13:30	Lunch	Hall (PC)
13:45-14:45	Keynote Lecture: <i>Prof. John Millbank</i>	Pichette Auditorium (PC)
14:45-15:15	Coffee/Tea	
15:15-16:15	Session 7	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
16:15-16:45	Coffee/Tea Guided Tour of Exhibition (Optional)	Art Gallery
17:00-18:15	Keynote Lecture <i>Prof. Suzanne Akbari</i>	Pichette Auditorium (PC)
18:30-19:30	Reception	Harold
19:30	Conference Banquet	Hall (PC)

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

08:00-09:00	Breakfast	Hall (PC)
10:00-11:00	Session 8	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
11:00-11:30	Coffee/Tea	
11:30-13:00	Session 9	A: Pichette Auditorium (PC) B: Harold Lee Room (PC)
13:00-14:00	Lunch and Departure	Hall (PC)

# Conference Programme

## Tuesday 3rd April

12:00

Registration

Auditorium Foyer  
Pembroke College (PC)

14:30-14:50

Welcome

Pichette Auditorium (PC)

**15:00-16:45**

Session 1

**Panel A**

***Perceiving Light***

**Pichette Auditorium**

Kaja Kollandsrud (University of Oslo)

*The Divine Communicated through Embodied Light in Medieval Sculpture in Norway*

Joshua Harvey (University of Oxford)

*Medieval and Modern Materials: Practice, Optics, and Visual Perception*

Manuel Spitschan (University of Oxford)

*Light, Colour and Vision: Natural and Artificial Illumination*

Panel Chair: Sigbjørn Sønnesyn

**Panel B**

***Above and Below the Moon***

**Harold Lee Room**

Brian Tanner (Durham University)

*When is a Comet not a Comet? The Reporting of Comets at the time of Robert Grosseteste*

Sarah Gilbert (Durham University)

*Isti mirant stella: How did People in Anglo-Saxon and Early Anglo-Norman England Conceptualise Celestial Phenomena?*

Nader El-Bizri (American University of Beirut)

*Experimental Mathematized Physics: Geometrizing Space and Alhazan's Optics*

Panel Chair: Rebekah White

*Delegates to make their way to the Weston Library for the Keynote and Public Lecture – arrive by 17:15*

17:30-18:30

Public Keynote Lecture

Weston Library Lecture Theatre

Professor Jim Al-Khalili (University of Surrey)  
*On the Shoulders of Giants: Optics before Newton*

Chair: Professor Tom McLeish

18:30-19:15

Drinks Reception

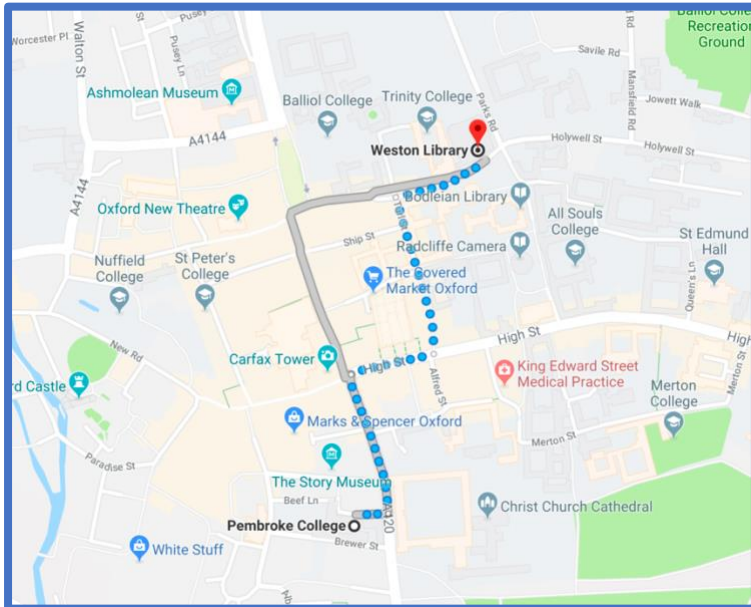
Blackwell Hall

*Delegates to make their way to Pembroke College for Dinner – arrive by 19:45*

19:45

Dinner

Hall (PC)



## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> April

08:00-08:45

Breakfast

Hall (PC)

09:00-10:00

Keynote Lecture

Professor Simon Oliver (Durham University)  
*Robert Grosseteste on Creatio Ex Nihilo, Form,  
and the Possibility of Science*

Chair: Professor Nader El-Bizri

10:15-11:45

Session 2

**Panel A**

***Through a Glass Darkly***

**Pichette Auditorium**

Cate Watkinson (National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland)  
*Illuminating Colour: Grosseteste in Glass, Part 1*

Colin Rennie (National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland)  
*Illuminating Colour: Grosseteste in Glass, Part 2*

Alexandra Carr (Artist)  
*Sculpting with Light: Cosmological Perspectives*

Panel Chair: Joshua Harvey

**Panel B**

***Animating the Cosmos***

**Harold Lee Room**

Jack Cunningham (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)  
*Soul Man: Robert Grosseteste and the Anima mundi*

Adam Hounslow-Eyre (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)  
*Robert Grosseteste and the Anima mundi: Scientific Disenchantment and the Re-enchantment of Nature and its Metaphors*

Ingrid Kodelja (Republic of Slovenia Public Fund for Cultural Activities)  
*Grosseteste's De Luce and the Beginnings of Modern Science*

Panel Chair: Clive Siviour

12:00-13:00

Lunch

Hall (PC)



13:15-14:45

Session 3

**Panel A**

***The Unbearable  
Lightness of Being***

**Pichette Auditorium**

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Nicola Polloni (Durham University)

*Sources of Light: Remarks on the Grosseteste/Avicebron Connection*

Jean Michel Counet (Université catholique de Louvain)

*Evil Being and Not-being. Ethical Wonder and Metaphysical Thought*

Lydia Schumacher (King's College London)

*The Centre of Everywhere: Cosmic Christology in the Summa Halensis*

Panel Chair: Nader El-Bizri

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**Panel B**

***Reckoning Time***

**Harold Lee Room**

Kathy Bader (Durham University)

*Robert Grosseteste, Hereford and the Severn Valley*

Philipp Nothaft (University of Oxford)

*Grosseteste as Computist*

Christian Etheridge (University of Southern Denmark, Odense)

*The Adventures of Robert Grosseteste in Scandinavia*

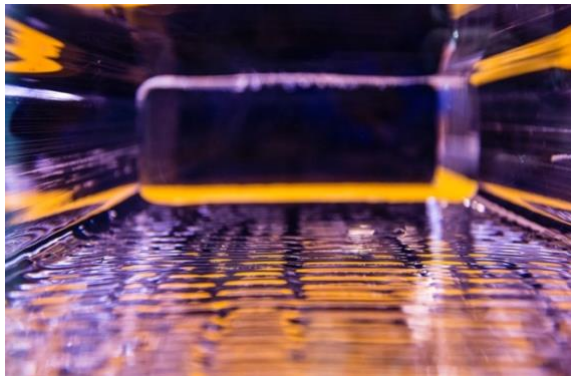
Panel Chair: Sarah Gilbert

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14:45-15:15

Coffee/Tea

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15:15-16:45

Session 4

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**Panel A**

***Dealing with Aristotle***

**Pichette Auditorium**

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Alisa Kunitz-Dick (University of Cambridge)

*'Verumptamen obscura est adhuc': Robert Grosseteste's Modification of Aristotle's Definition of Place in Physics IV*

Sigbjørn Sønnesyn (Durham University)

*Scientific Exercises and Spiritual Experiments in Grosseteste's Mature Thought*

Brett Smith (Catholic University of America)

*Where Aristotle Went Wrong: How Desire Shapes Intellectual Vision in the Epistemology of Robert Grosseteste*

Panel Chair: Tom McLeish

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**Panel B**

***Thinking Through  
Grosseteste***

**Harold Lee Room**

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Jenny Wynn (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)

*Asking the Right Questions?*

Yvonne Hall (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)

*Feminism and Knowledge Democracy within Robert Grosseteste University*

Rosie Reed Gold (Artist)

*Between Light and Illumination: Metaphysical Investigations with a Camera*

Panel Chair: Rebekah White

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17:00-18:00

Committee Meeting of the International Robert Grosseteste Society

Harold Lee Room

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17:00-18:00

Guided Tour of the Exhibition (Optional)

Art Gallery

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*Individual Arrangements for Dinner*

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## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April

08:00-09:00

Breakfast

Hall (PC)

09:30-10:30

Session 5

### Panel A

#### *High Visibility*

Pichette Auditorium

Claire Todd (National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland)

*Making Light Rays Matter: Corporeity to Vision through Contemporary Sculptural Glass*

Angela Thwaites (National Glass Centre, University of Sunderland)

*Worlds within Worlds: Making the Unmakeable in Cast Glass*

Panel Chair: Rebekah White

### Panel B

#### *Enacting Interdisciplinarity*

Harold Lee Room

Elizabeth Tyler (University of York)

*Centre for Medieval Literature: Project Presentation*

Dale Kedwards (University of Southern Denmark, Odense)

*Interstellar Skies*

Panel Chair: Tom McLeish

10:30-11:00

Coffee/Tea



11:00-12:30

Session 6

**Panel A**

**Grosseteste and the  
Franciscans**

**Pichette Auditorium**

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Yael Kedar (Tel Hai College and University of Haifa)  
*Astrology, Universal Law, Machina mundi and the Order of Nature in the Thirteenth Century*

José Higuera Rubio (University of Porto)  
*Grosseteste's Spherical Condition of the Heavens: The Astronomical Experience According to Geometria Practica*

Jack Smith (University of Oxford)  
*An Interactive Presentation of a Computer Modelling of Robert Grosseteste's De sphaera – On the Sphere*

Panel Chair: Jack Cunningham

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**Panel B**

**World Machines**

**Harold Lee Room**

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Francesca Galli (Università della Svizzera italiana)  
*The Shape and Size of the Ecclesia triumphans: An Unedited Franciscan Quaestio from the Late 1200s*

Michael Robson (University of Cambridge)  
*Robert Grosseteste and the Franciscan School at Oxford (1224-53)*

William Crozier (Durham University)  
*'Let there be Light' – Some Reflections on an Unedited Set of Draft Quaestiones on Colour attributed to St. Bonaventure*

Panel Chair: Giles Gasper

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12:30-13:30

Lunch

Hall (PC)

13:45-14:45

Keynote Lecture

Professor John Milbank (Nottingham University)  
*The Order of Learning and the Emergence of Modern Science*

Chair: Dr Jack Cunningham

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14:45-15:15

Coffee/Tea

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15:15-16:15

Session 7

**Panel A**

**Learning Communities**

**Pichette Auditorium**

Aimee Quickfall (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)  
*Philosophy with Children and Robert Grosseteste*

Pat Beckley (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)  
*Robert Grosseteste: The Legacy of his Human Characteristics*

Panel Chair: Sigbjørn Sønnesyn

**Panel B**

**Beyond  
Interdisciplinarity**

**Harold Lee Room**

Tom McLeish (University of York)  
*Beyond Interdisciplinarity to the Unity of Knowledge: Why We Need Both Medieval and Modern Minds*

Paul Tyson (University of Queensland)  
*The 'After Science and Religion' Project*

Panel Chair: David Thomson

16:15-16:45

Coffee/Tea

16:15-16:45

Guided Tour of the  
Exhibition (Optional)

Art Gallery

17:00-18:15

Keynote Lecture

Professor Suzanne Akbari (University of Toronto)  
*Diagramming Devotion: The Place of Grosseteste  
in English Affective Piety*

Chair: Dr Giles Gasper

18:30-19:00

Reception

19:30

Conference Banquet

# Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April

08:00-09:00

Breakfast

Hall (PC)

10:00-11:00

Session 8

## Panel A

### *Models and Illumination*

Pichette Auditorium

Adam Foxon (Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln)  
*Grosseteste's Illuminationist Epistemology and Justified True Belief*

Angelo Silvestri (Cardiff University)  
*Hugh of Avalon's Ethical, Political, Artistic and Religious Thoughts: A Robert Grosseteste ante litteram?*

Panel Chair: Sarah Gilbert

## Panel B

### *Grosseteste Through Time*

Harold Lee Room

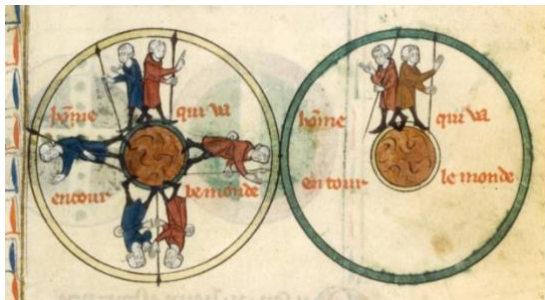
Adam Richter (University of Toronto)  
*Robert Grosseteste, John Wallis, and the Laws of Nature*

John Tomlinson (St John's College, Nottingham)  
*The Contested Legacies of Grosseteste*

Panel Chair: Nicola Polloni

11:00-11:30

Coffee/Tea



11:30-13:00

Session 9

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**Panel A**

*From Spirit to Letter*

**Pichette Auditorium**

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David Thomson (Bishop of Huntingdon)  
*A New Lease of Life for Grosseteste's Liberal Arts*

Charles Roe (University of Leeds)  
*Imagining Grosseteste in the Chasteu d'amur*

Thomas Henderson (Durham University)  
*'Manifestations of the Invisible and the Eternal' – The Universe, Theology and Gender in High Medieval Cosmologies*

Panel Chair: Brian Tanner

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**Panel B**

*Social Networks – Legal Practice*

**Harold Lee Room**

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Matthew Hoskins (Durham University)  
*Robert Grosseteste and the Science of Canon Law: The Study and Teaching of Canon Law in Late 12<sup>th</sup>-Century England*

Giles Gasper (Durham University)  
*Authority, Restraint and Rebellion: Considerations of Robert Grosseteste and his Patrons*

James Turner (Durham University)  
*Illegitimacy, Governance, and Preferment: Contextualising Grosseteste's Clerical Career*

Panel Chair: Joshua Harvey

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13:00-14:00

Lunch and Depart

Hall (PC)

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## TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> APRIL

12:00	Registration
14:30	Welcome
15:00	Session 1A                      Session 1B
17:30	Public Keynote Lecture: Prof Jim Al-Khalili
18:30	Drinks Reception
19:45	Conference Dinner

## WEDNESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

08:00	Breakfast
09:00	Keynote Lecture: Professor Simon Oliver
10:15	Session 2A                      Session 2B
12:00	Lunch
13:15	Session 3A                      Session 3B
14:45	Coffee/Tea
15:15	Session 4A                      Session 4B
17:00	Committee Meeting IRGS
17:00	Guided Tour of Art Gallery (optional)

## THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

08:00	Breakfast
09:30	Session 5A                      Session 5B
10:30	Coffee/Tea
11:00	Session 6A                      Session 6B
12:30	Lunch
13:45	Keynote Lecture: Professor John Milbank
14:45	Coffee/Tea
15:15	Session 7A                      Session 7B
16:15	Coffee/Tea
16:15	Guided Tour of the Art Gallery (optional)
17:00	Keynote Lecture: Professor Suzanne Akbari
18:30	Reception
19:30	Conference Banquet

## FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> April

08:00	Breakfast
10:00	Session 8A                      Session 8B
11:00	Coffee/Tea
11:30	Session 9A                      Session 9B
13:00	Lunch and Depart

Auditorium Foyer	Pichette Auditorium	Harold Lee Room
Weston Library	Dining Hall	Art Gallery