



Reuben
College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



TUESDAY TALKS/DwD: HT26

Week 1: Speak Smart When It's Hard: Leading Conversations About Complex & Controversial Research

Tuesday 20 January

Over the course of an interactive evening, Dr JC Niala, Dr Hattie Warburton and Sophie Brixton will share practical tips for crafting clear, confident messages.

From sharp elevator pitches to speaking on topics you may not fully agree with, participants will build skills step by step. You will first practise one-on-one, then in small groups, and finally with a larger audience. You'll leave armed with ideas ready to take on real-world public speaking challenges.



Week 2: Can We Advance Healthspan Effectively and Sustainably with AI?

Tuesday 27 January

Generative AI offers unprecedented tools to reshape health, promising to improve outcomes, access, and efficiency by creating new solutions for both patient selfcare and clinical practice (a model known as the co-production of health). AI agents are also accelerating opportunities for start-ups to bring new innovations to market at an unprecedented pace.

Dr Vivian Lee, Visiting Fellow at Reuben College, will explore how these can align with global goals to advance healthspan. However, the massive energy and data infrastructure required to train and run these advanced models create a significant, often overlooked, environmental footprint. We will close with a discussion of a framework for evaluating AI health solutions that prioritize both human and planetary wellbeing of our present.



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Week 3: A Life of Pain and Pleasure

Tuesday 3 February

Our University Vice-Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey, will describe her research as a pain neuroscientist and the broader field of human neuroimaging.

She will also discuss her various leadership roles and the pleasure she derives from supporting the University of Oxford's academic mission



Week 4: Why Your Food Choice Matters – The Super Wicked Problem of Food System Change

Tuesday 10 February

Over 800 million people go to bed hungry each night, but obesity is rising worldwide. Agriculture sits at the centre of the climate, water and biodiversity crisis, while also having to adapt to environmental change.

Professor Monika Zurek (ECI's Lead for the Food System Transformation Group) will explore today's key food system challenges and how changing what we eat can help.



Week 5: Student Takeover

Tuesday 17 February

Join us for presentations from our own Reuben students on their varied research. Details on the topics and presenters will come during term.





Week 6: The Case for Climate Reparations

Tuesday 24 February

In 2025, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) - known as the World Court - issued a landmark decision on climate change in its biggest ever case, making clear that countries need to rapidly cut emissions to reduce warming to 1.5C. The Court also held that if countries fail to act, they could be liable to pay reparations.

In this lecture, Harj Narulla, Visiting Fellow at Reuben College and a leading global expert in climate litigation, will draw on his experience as counsel for Solomon Islands before the ICJ to map out the case for climate reparations.



Week 7: Frankenstein's Babies

Tuesday 3 March

The prospect of designing our children using gene editing is getting ever closer. Many pressing ethical questions about these developments are mirrored in dystopian fiction including "Frankenstein" and "Brave New World".

What does our desire for control say about our society? Is fair access to gene editing possible? Can we maximise both happiness and authenticity for future people? Come along to discuss with Reuben Research Fellow, Dr Tess Johnson.



Week 8: AI and Human Empowerment

Tuesday 10 March

Technology makes us wealthier, healthier, and more knowledgeable. But does it help us live richer and more fulfilling lives? Professor Chris Summerfield argues the dominant trend over the past 200 years has been for technology to strip people of their personal agency.

In this talk, he will discuss this contention in the context of the 21st century AI revolution, and ask how we can train models to empower, rather than disempower, people.