

RSA Public Events that were held between September 2008 and August 2009.

All audio files from this time are held at the Sound Archive of the British Library. Any transcripts that were made from these events are held with the RSA Archive department. All resources are free to access.

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - Émigré identity in post 9/11 America	Al-Aswany, Alaa (speaker, male)	Miles, Hugh (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.09.04	RSA, London	Alaa Al-Aswany authored The Yacoubian Building, the biggest selling book in the Arabic language and has been called the "Armistead Maupin of Egypt." His finely crafted and oft times controversial characters revealed a modern day Egypt dealing with the corrosive effect of dictatorship on human dignity. His latest novel, Chicago, deals with the crises of identity amongst a cast of characters struggling to assimilate their traditional Egyptian values into a post 9-11 American world. Join us for this valuable glimpse into the conflicting interpersonal politics of today's Egyptian society. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7542
Unjust Rewards: exposing the greed and inequality in Britain today	Toynbee, Polly (speaker, female)	Hutton, Will (speaker, male)	Willets MP, David (speaker, male)	Professor Offer, Avner (speaker, male)	Moulton, Jon (speaker, male)	Walker, David (speaker, male)	2008.09.04	RSA, London	In a new book, Unjust Rewards: Exposing the Greed and Inequality in Britain Today, Polly Toynbee and co-author David Walker investigate inequality in modern Britain, speaking to people at every level of pay, from top City bankers and lawyers to single-parent families. Weaving the argument for fairer tax with a defence of what tax money buys, Toynbee and Walker argue not for more tax in total, but for tax that is distributed more equitably. Chaired by Matthew Taylor. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7543
Britishness - a values-based approach is not enough	Wills MP, Michael (speaker, male)	Dame Forgan DBE, Liz (speaker, female)	Greer, Bonnie (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; Chair)			2008.09.09	RSA, London	To meet the challenges posed by a more mobile, less grounded society, with increased migration and devolution, the Government has set out to develop a statement of British values, backed by a legally enforceable British Bill of Rights. Yet can a diverse society agree on a shared set of values that has any meaning? Can a fixed constitutional settlement and set of values truly reflect and keep up with a society in a rapid state of change? And can values, rights and responsibilities really describe what it means to be British when individual and collective identities are based on so much more? After seven years of overseeing a renaissance of the UK's heritage as chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Liz Forgan will argue that not only is a purely values-based concept of national identity too narrow to succeed, but that heritage has enormous power to bring communities together around disparate yet powerful ethnic links, provide a route into civic participation and foster a strong, inclusive national identity. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7544
RSA Thursday - The Art of Living: Can suffering be part of wellbeing?	Dr Carel, Havi (speaker, female)	Vernon, Mark (speaker, male)	Professor Tallis, Ray (speaker, male)				2008.09.11	RSA, London	Does pain always end happiness? Is suffering the opposite of wellbeing? You might think so, given the way that pleasure and positive feelings are emphasised in contemporary visions of the good life. And yet, anyone who has suffered, for example, the loss of someone they love knows that loss can bring closeness like nothing else. Difficulties often make one feel alive. Can a deeper understanding of the experience of pain be the key to a meaningful life? Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7545

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA at the Liberal Democrat Conference - What do voters want?	Huhne MP, Chris (speaker, male)	Page, Ben (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Kearney, Martha (speaker, female; Chair)			2008.09.14	RSA, London	<p>The RSA and the BBC's World at One are running a series of events at each of the party conferences.</p> <p>The debates will focus on the relationship between politics, the voters and the media. With the convergence of politics towards the centre ground, much debate has focused on what do the main political parties stand for these days? However we should also ask an opposing question - what do their respective voters stand for? What do they believe? We are able to use data from Mori's state of the nation survey to analyse the mood of the nation and examine differences between voters of each party. The event will ask what are voters' priorities and their aspirations, what can we say is their state of mind and how coherent is the national mood? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7546</p>
RSA Thursday - Mad, Bad and Sad: A History of the Study of the Female Mind	Appignanesi, Lisa (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.09.18	RSA, London	<p>In Mad, Bad and Sad: A History of Women and the Mind Doctors from 1800 to the Present (Virago, 2008), novelist and writer Lisa Appignanesi examines how history has treated the female mind, and why women are more likely to be considered mentally unstable than men.</p> <p>How much does access to a profession and an independent life limit the road to madness? Why do women respond more successfully to talking treatments than men? Is there something about the female existence that might make them more susceptible to mental illness than men?</p> <p>Drawing on case studies from Virginia Woolf to Marilyn Monroe, and on theorists from Freud to Lacan, Appignanesi refuses to believe that madness comes out of nowhere. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7547</p>
RSA Screens - The Family	Dickson, Simon (speaker, male)	Smith, Jonathan (speaker, male)	Temple, Magnus (speaker, male)	Thirkell, Robert (speaker, male; Chair)			2008.09.18	RSA, London	<p>The Family is a major new eight-part observational documentary series, which lifts the lid on family dynamics to build a revealing and intimate portrait of life in Britain today.</p> <p>Directed by BAFTA-winning Jonathan Smith, The Family was filmed over one hundred days and nights, and combines traditional observational documentary film making techniques with purpose built camera technology.</p> <p>The Hughes family, from Canterbury in Kent, agreed to be filmed round the clock, offering a unique insight into our most cherished social institution. The result is a touching and heart warming series that chronicles the highs and lows of every aspect of family life. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7548</p>
RSA at the Labour Conference - What do voters want?	Miliband MP, David (speaker, male)	Page, Ben (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Kearney, Martha (speaker, female; Chair)			2008.09.21	RSA, London	<p>The debates focus on the relationship between politics, the voters and the media. With the convergence of politics towards the centre ground, much debate has focused on what do the main political parties stand for these days? However we should also ask an opposing question - what do their respective voters stand for? What do they believe? We are able to use data from Mori's state of the nation survey to analyse the mood of the nation and examine differences between voters of each party. The event will ask what are voters' priorities and their aspirations, what can we say is their state of mind and how coherent is the national mood? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7549</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Screens - True Stories: Chosen	Woods, Brian (speaker, male)	Search, Jess (speaker, female)					2008.09.22	RSA, London	<p>Join us for this exclusive preview screening and Q&A with the director, Brian Woods and Jess Search, chair of The Channel 4 British Documentary Film Foundation.</p> <p>Chosen tells the extraordinary story of Tom, Mark and Alastair who at a young age were sent to the best school that money could buy. What their parents didn't suspect, was that several teachers on the staff were abusing their position of power to sexually exploit students. After thirty years of silence these three men speak out with spellbinding articulacy and breath-taking honesty. This is an extraordinary film which, despite the subject matter, is enormously engaging and watchable. It gives an unusual insight into the ways that children can be drawn into abusive situations and how schools can fail spectacularly in their duty of care to young and vulnerable children. Followed by audience questions.</p> <p>In association with More 4</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7550</p>
Future Files: A History of the Next 50 Years	Watson, Richard (speaker, male)	Macdonald, Nico (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.09.23	RSA, London	<p>"Future Files" is filled with startling facts from the present, from which are derived staggering insights about the next half century. It examines emerging trends and developments in society, technology, economy, and business, and makes educated speculation as to where they might take us. "Future Files" will prove indispensable to business planners, strategists or anyone that needs to stay ahead of the game. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7551</p>
A Decline of Values	Baroness Neuberger (speaker, female)	Professor Grayling, A C (speaker, male)	Browne, Anthony (speaker, male)	Eisenstad, Naomi (speaker, female)	Unwin CBE, Julia (speaker, female; Chair)		2008.09.24	RSA, London	<p>In line with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's public consultation exploring social evils, the panel will look at whether there has been a decline in values in UK society. At the turn of the century Joseph Rowntree set up his three trusts and identified the worst social evils of the time. In 2007 the Joseph Rowntree Foundation asked the public to consider what social evils face the UK today. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7552</p>
RSA Thursday - Downing Street Diary	Lord Donoughue (speaker, male)	The Rt Hon Professor Williams, Shirley (speaker, female)	Marquand, David (speaker, male)	Riddell, Peter (speaker, male; Chair)			2008.09.25	RSA, London	<p>This second volume covers three years, 1976-1979, when Donoughue was senior policy advisor to James Callaghan. Following the scandals of the later Wilson years, Callaghan, a politician of great patriotism and decency, seemed to have succeeded in steering Britain into calmer waters. But then a storm broke and Donoughue depicts the prime minister and the government paralysed as the 'Winter of Discontent' begins to bite. The collapse of 'old' Labour was inevitable and Margaret Thatcher rises as a striking new opposition leader. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7553</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA at the Conservative Conference – What do voters want?	Rt Hon Letwin MP, Oliver (speaker, male)	Page, Ben (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Kearney, Martha (speaker, female; Chair)			2008.09.28	RSA, London	<p>The RSA and the BBC's World at One are running a series of events at each of the party conferences.</p> <p>The debates will focus on the relationship between politics, the voters and the media. With the convergence of politics towards the centre ground, much debate has focused on what do the main political parties stand for these days? However we should also ask an opposing question - what do their respective voters stand for? What do they believe? We are able to use data from Mori's state of the nation survey to analyse the mood of the nation and examine differences between voters of each party. The event will ask what are voters' priorities and their aspirations, what can we say is their state of mind and how coherent is the national mood? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7554</p>
RSA Thursday - What's the Point of School?	Professor Wiliam, Dylan (speaker, male)	Professor Claxton, Guy (speaker, male)	Gibbons, Mike (speaker, male)				2008.10.02	RSA, London	<p>Professor Guy Claxton leads a timely debate on "What's the Point of School?" Guy's new book on the subject asks: do the UK's schools do more harm than good? With their emphasis on regurgitated knowledge and stressful exams, have today's schools lost sight of what should be their core purpose – to foster and new generation of confident and enthusiastic learners, able to thrive in a swiftly changing world. The book urgently calls upon to politicians and the media to move beyond sterile debates about academies and dumbed-down exams, and offers a practical guide to parents and teachers to rediscovering the heart of education. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7555</p>
Wealth creation in the developing world: Is Africa a lost cause?	Dowden, Richard (speaker, male)	Rasul, Firoz (speaker, male)	Versi, Anver (speaker, male)	Chikezie, Chukwu-Emeka (speaker, male)	Inyundo, Boko (speaker, male)	Coker, Naaz (speaker, female; Chair)	2008.10.02	RSA, London	<p>Why has Africa failed to enjoy the fruits of the globalisation of the past quarter century, whilst regions such as South East Asia and India have enjoyed a rapid growth in prosperity? Is aid the answer - or the problem? What can be learned from comparing countries such as Ghana and Malaysia, who were on an economic par when they achieved independence fifty years ago, but now have vastly differing economies?</p> <p>Examining factors from the importance of political stability, leadership and good governance, to trade, investment and aid policies at regional, national and global levels, our panel will consider: what will it take to set Africa on the path to stable and sustainable economic growth? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7556</p>
RSA at the Birmingham Book Festival - Greetings from Bury Park	Manzoor, Sarfraz (speaker, male)						2008.10.02	Birmingham	<p>Sarfraz Manzoor's teenage years were a constant battle to reconcile being both British and Muslim. Music was a passion and at sixteen he discovered the music of a man that would change his life forever. Bruce Springsteen articulated everything that Sarfraz had ever felt about escape.</p> <p>Greetings from Bury Park illuminates the hidden joys and public agonies of being a Pakistani Muslim. It is an inspiring tribute to the power of music to transcend race and religion and essential reading for anyone interested in trying to understand what it means to be Muslim living in Britain today. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7557</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA at the Birmingham Book Festival - Any Questions?							2008.10.03	Birmingham	<p>Any Questions is Radio 4's forum for lively debate between leading public figures. Chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby, the programme comes to Birmingham as a guest of the Birmingham Book Festival and the RSA.</p> <p>The programme has been broadcast nationally since 1948.</p> <p>Any Questions? provides an opportunity for high-level discourse and discussions on a range of issues raised by members of the audience. It comes at the end of the week in which the city is the venue for the Conservative Party Conference. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7558</p>
Chairman's Inaugural Lecture: Corporate responsibility - thrive, die or be sidelined through the quest for profits	Acher CBE LVO, Gerry (speaker, male)						2008.10.07	RSA, London	<p>The subject of Corporate Responsibility is never far from the Board Room agenda and is interpreted in many different ways. In the last ten years we have seen unprecedented progress towards the global economy, periods of boom and now, according to the Chancellor, the worst experience in the economy for 60 years.</p> <p>Where does all this leave the Corporate Responsibility agenda; will it be washed away in the wake of the growing financial crisis or will it rise up like a phoenix from the ashes - and what will it look like? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7559</p>
RSA Vodafone Event - Young people and social exclusion	Udeh, Philip (speaker, male)	Smith, Iain Duncan (speaker, male)	Lyon, Juliet (speaker, female)	Dame Grey-Thompson, Tanni (speaker, female)	Lewis, Simon (speaker, male; Chair)		2008.10.08	RSA, London	<p>Many young people in the UK are facing social exclusion as a result of a break-down in family and community structure. Educational under-achievement and long-term unemployment can lead to destructive behaviour cycles including drug and alcohol addiction and criminal activity. How can we empower young people to raise their aspirations and make constructive choices to help themselves? Our panel will look at existing support services and programmes and discuss where there is room for improvement. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7560</p>
RSA at the Birmingham Book Festival - The Duck That Won The Lottery	Baggini, Julian (speaker, male)						2008.10.08	Birmingham	<p>The Duck That Won The Lottery is a companion volume to The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten and provides a rapid-fire selection of short, stimulating and entertaining capsules of philosophy. This time the focus is on the bad, argumentative moves people use all the time, in politics, the media and everyday life. Each entry takes as its starting point an example of questionable reasoning from the media or literature. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7561</p>
RSA Thursday - The Power of the Political Cartoon	Rowson, Martin (speaker, male)	Self, Will (speaker, male)					2008.10.09	RSA, London	<p>Rowson's style is visceral and deliberately provocative, and he sees himself following in the tradition of eighteenth-century satirists and cartoonists, such as Gillray. How has cartooning and satirical art influenced political culture and public opinion in the past, and what is its status today? Rowson discusses his career as a 'visual journalist' and to trace the intriguing history of the political cartoon. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7562</p>
New Design in Heritage Settings, the Angus Millar Lecture 2008	Bednarski, Cezary	Pini, Daniele (speaker, female)					2008.10.13	Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh	<p>This highly successful event, attended by over 320 architects, urban planners, students from the Edinburgh College of Art and RSA Fellows took place at the Royal College of Physicians, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh on Monday 13 October. It was supported by a bequest from Angus Millar, the RSA, the Media & Creative Industries Special Interest Group, Anderson Strathern LLP and Historic Scotland.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7563</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Why is there such resistance to public re-examination of the values we live by?	Clifton, Rita (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Nussbaum, David (speaker, male)	Garman, Joss (speaker, male)	Dr Skidelsky, Edward (speaker, male; Chair)		2008.10.15	RSA, London	<p>Societal values both drive and constrain responses to the global challenges that we confront: can we hope to meet these challenges whilst working within the matrix of values that currently dominate in society? Is engaging with societal values a quixotic exercise – or the only hope that we have?</p> <p>What is the role of opinion leaders and public figures in providing leadership in shifting societal values – and what are the sources of constraint that they experience? Who will need to blink first – government, or business? And what will be the response of the media? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7564</p>
RSA Thursday - Eternity: our next billion years	Hanlon, Michael (speaker, male)	Macdonald, Nico (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.10.16	RSA, London	<p>In his new book Eternity: our next billion years the Daily Mail's science editor, Michael Hanlon, takes issue with what he argues has become the received wisdom - that our world is doomed, that we live in the End of Days, that extreme weather, droughts, famines and floods will overtake humanity within the century, or sooner. If not global warming, then supervolcanoes, meteoric impacts, nuclear war, bioterrorism, or natural plagues pose a mortal threat to human existence as we know it.</p> <p>But Hanlon's view is that, whatever happens, humankind will go on. He argues that humanity may be thrown back to the Stone Age on hundreds of occasions and may come close to extinction. But recovery will follow, each time more rapidly than the last. The world of 10,000 years hence, let alone 100,000,000 years hence, will be strange and almost unrecognizable. But no matter how battered and re-born, it will still be our world, populated by us through eternity.</p> <p>How risky is it to adopt a "life-will-go-on" attitude? If this attitude gained prevalence, what would it mean for the sustainability movement and its attempt to educate the public about global</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7565</p>
RSA at the Birmingham Book Festival - Strange Fruit	Malik, Kenan (speaker, male)						2008.10.16	Birmingham	<p>Why both sides are wrong in the race debate. Strange Fruit takes to task the controversial words of Nobel Laureate James Watson in 2007 and examines the race debate in greater, braver detail. The book argues that Race is not a rational, scientific category, and that anti-racism has become an irrational, anti-scientific philosophy. It outlines the challenge faced in confronting racial thinking while defending scientific rationality and promoting enlightenment universality. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7566</p>
The RSA Mellis Lectures - How will the economic development of China and India affect the 'New World Order'?	Smith, David (speaker, male)	Emmott, Bill (speaker, male)	Hilton, Isabel (speaker, female)	Sir Appleyard KCMG, Leonard (speaker, male; Chair)			2008.10.18	RSA, London	<p>The RSA Mellis Lectures explore a range of today's issues through talks and debate featuring senior and influential figures. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7567</p>
RSA Screens - True Stories: Jesus Politics	Ziv, Ilan (speaker, male)	Ahmed, Aaqil (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.10.21	RSA, London	<p>Israeli born filmmaker, Ilan Ziv, goes on a 4000 mile journey through 17 US states to try and understand if the country's promise of a separation of Church and State is changing. Is religion getting too mixed with politics in the 2008 US election campaign? The journey, through the Primary races, does not follow the candidates but religious activists of all shades of the ideological and religious spectrum. In association with More 4. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7568</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
From Poverty to Power: What will be the role of aid in 2020?	Green, Duncan (speaker, male)	Wade, Robert (speaker, male)					2008.10.22	RSA, London	<p>In a new book, From Poverty to Power, Duncan Green argues that the 21st Century will be defined by the fight against the scourges of poverty, inequality and the threat of environmental collapse - as the fight against slavery or for universal suffrage defined earlier eras.</p> <p>Building on Oxfam's 60 years of experience in the poorest countries in the world, Duncan will argue that this requires a radical redistribution of power, opportunities and assets to break the cycle of poverty and inequality, and to give poor people power over their own lives. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7569</p>
RSA at the Birmingham Book Festival - The Kingdom of Infinite Space	Professor Tallis, Ray (speaker, male)						2008.10.22	Birmingham	<p>Ray Tallis is a leading British gerontologist, philosopher, poet, novelist and cultural critic. His books offer a critique of current predominant intellectual trends and an alternative understanding of consciousness, the nature of language and what it is to be human.</p> <p>In The Kingdom of Infinite Space Tallis contemplates the air we exhale; the subtle meanings of nods, winks, and smiles; the mysteries of hearing, taste, and smell. He discusses the metaphysics of the gaze, the meaning of kissing, and the processes by which the head comes to understand the world. Along the way he offers intriguing digressions on such notions as "having" and "using" one's head, and enjoying and suffering it. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7570</p>
RSA Thursday - Public Confession: US/UK Perspectives	Wise Bauer, Susan (speaker, female)	Aitken, Jonathan (speaker, male)					2008.10.23	RSA, London	<p>As the US election draws to its close, historian Susan Wise Bauer visits the RSA to discuss the culture of public confession, and to consider parallels between political, religious and public life in the US and the UK.</p> <p>Professor Wise Bauer's new book The Art of the Public Grovel, (Princeton, 2008) traces the history and theology of public confession in modern America, from Ted Kennedy to Bill Clinton. In the book, Wise Bauer analyses the careers of prominent public figures who have suffered a fall from grace, and explains why and how a type of confession that first arose among nineteenth-century evangelicals has today become the required form for any successful public admission of wrongdoing in the United States.</p> <p>Given the predominantly secular context of British public life, what is required to rebuild a career of public service, following a serious transgression? What are the key differences in public attitudes on this side of the Atlantic to misdemeanours on the part of public figures and politicians?</p> <p>Is there an art to successful confession or is genuine contrition and substantial reparation the real key to rehabilitation? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7571</p>
Punishment and Reform	Rt Hon Straw, Jack MP (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.10.27	RSA, London	<p>Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, the Rt Hon Jack Straw MP speak about punishment and reform in the criminal justice system. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7572</p>
RSA Thursday - The Good Reader and The World	Professor A C Grayling (speaker, male)	Davidson, Jonathan (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.10.30	RSA, London	<p>Professor A C Grayling responds to concerns with reading culture, looking at reading as a critical, challenging and subversive process. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7573</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Arts Council England event - The Courage of Funders: risk and innovation in the age of artistic excellence	Davey, Alan (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.11.03	RSA, London	Alan Davey, chief executive of Arts Council England, sets out his vision for the arts for the next three years. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7574
RSA Screens - The Ascent of Money	Ferguson, Niall (speaker, male)	Chair: Lee, Ralph (speaker, male)					2008.11.04	RSA, London	Coming in the wake of more than a year of extraordinary turbulence in world financial markets, The Ascent of Money could hardly be better timed. In it, Niall Ferguson sets out to explain how "Planet Finance" came to dominate Planet Earth. Niall shows that behind every great historical phenomenon - empires and republics, wars and revolutions - there lies a financial secret. And he asks what the wider consequences of the credit crunch will be. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7575
The Venturesome Economy: how innovation sustains prosperity in a more connected world	Bhide, Amar (speaker, male)						2008.11.05	RSA, London	Many warn that the next stage of globalisation - the offshoring of research and development to China and India - threatens the foundations of Western prosperity. But in The Venturesome Economy, acclaimed business and economics scholar Amar Bhide shows how wrong the doomsayers are. Using extensive field studies on venture-capital-backed businesses to examine how technology really advances in modern economies, Bhide explains why know-how developed abroad enhances, not diminishes, prosperity at home. A fresh interpretation of the complex process of innovation, and a timely and original analysis of how the global economy functions and its trajectory for the next several years. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7576
RSA Thursday - US Elections 2008: the post-match analysis	McGuire, Stryker (speaker, male)	Halper, Stefan (speaker, male)	Allen, Candace (speaker, female)	Kettle, Martin (speaker, male; Chair)			2008.11.06	RSA, London	Join us for topical analysis of 2008's historic US presidential election. An expert panel will gather to digest the election results, reflect upon the lessons of the campaign and look to the challenges ahead for the new American President. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7577
Private Optimism vs. Public Despair: What do opinion polls tell us?	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Page, Ben (speaker, male)	Mattinson, Deborah (speaker, female)	Dolan, Paul (speaker, male)	Finkelstein, Daniel (speaker, male)		2008.11.06	RSA, London	Opinion polls offer revealing insight into the public's sense of well-being. But what do we learn when polling shows what one might call a 'cognitive disconnect', with a marked contrast between personal perceptions and the public reality? How is it that individuals can express record levels of feelings of personal safety, job satisfaction, and contentment with the NHS, and yet 63 per cent state that Britain is broken? If certain polls show a static level of personal happiness for 30 years, regardless of economic downturn or upswing, does the national mood even matter? In the wake of today's financial crisis, join us as we look at how people are thinking and feeling about today's economic, social and political climate, and consider the way forward. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7578

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
The Future of Music	Machover, Tod (speaker, male)	Kennedy, John (speaker, male)	Simon, Ralph (speaker, male; Chair)				2008.11.11	RSA, London	<p>Tod Machover, from MIT's renowned Media Lab, is one of the world's most exciting composers, working at the cutting edge of technology. In the month that his new opera Skellig premieres at The Sage, Gateshead, Tod comes to the RSA to offer a glimpse of the future of music and to share his vision of how music-making can be made genuinely accessible and life-changing for all.</p> <p>Tod will argue that although there is a current boom in user-created content, and applications such as Guitar Hero have seen world-wide success, there is a widening gap between professional musicians and the interested public.</p> <p>How can this gap be closed? And what musical qualities, technological tools and business models will lead to a truly vibrant musical ecology, where the boundaries between expertise and amateurism are blurred, and both excellence and enjoyment are enhanced?</p> <p>We are delighted that John Kennedy, Global Chairman and Chief Executive of IFPI, the organisation that represents the global recording industry worldwide, will join us to offer his unique perspective on how the music industry is re-inventing itself for the digital era and how technological progress will impact the commercial</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7579</p>
The Age of Austerity: Keynes and the Crisis	Lord Skidelsky, Robert (speaker, male)	Wolf, Martin (speaker, male)	Naish, John (speaker, male)	Lilico, Andrew (speaker, male)	Lord Desai (speaker, male)	Mason, Paul (speaker, male; Chair)	2008.11.12	RSA, London	<p>The RSA presents a new series of public debates addressing the global financial crisis and assessing the implications for the economy, for society, for politics and for values. Over three topical debates, we will bring together leading commentators to debate what kind of economy and society will and should emerge from the financial storm and the onset of a period of prolonged economic difficulty.</p> <p>In this first debate, we will be considering whether we find ourselves at a genuinely new moment in economic theory and practice, and asking whether, as the Chancellor himself has suggested, it is time to reclaim Keynes?</p> <p>J.M. Keynes has been the economist most frequently invoked in recent weeks of economic soul-searching. Our panel of experts will assess his reputation, consider whether we have properly understood/implemented Keynesian principles in the past, and ask: would Keynes have seen the present crisis coming, and what would he have done? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7580</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday – Britain’s Forgotten Pandemic	Honigsbaum, Mark (speaker, male)	McCoy, David (speaker, male; Chair)					2008.11.13	RSA, London	<p>The death toll from the Great Flu of 1918-19 was simply incomprehensible, with as many as 100 million dead worldwide.</p> <p>Ninety years on, as the world faces the prospect of a new pandemic, triggered this time by the bird flu virus H5N1, science journalist Mark Honigsbaum recalls the ‘forgotten’ story of the 1918 influenza and examines how British society and public institutions might cope with a similarly devastating outbreak today.</p> <p>Would Britons present a ‘stiff-upper lip’ as they did in 1918 or would there be widespread panic?</p> <p>Would patients heed the Department of Health’s call to stay at home and telephone the National Flu hotline for advice, or would they besiege chemists and GP’s surgeries demanding antiviral medications and vaccines?</p> <p>And given Britain’s ‘just-in-time’ economy and our dependence on international markets, how would the government prevent an economic meltdown and a Northern Rock-style run on banks, supermarkets and petrol stations? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7581</p>
RSA Screens - True Stories: Pig Business	Worcester, Tracy (speaker, female)	Fearnley-Whittingstall, Hugh (speaker, male)	Browning, Helen (speaker, female)				2008.11.13	RSA, London	<p>Pig Business documents food campaigner and activist Tracy Worcester’s one woman quest to expose the hidden costs of cheap food. Travelling to America, Poland and back to Britain she looks into intensive pig farming and the effect it has had on the farming communities. When it comes to food exposés, pigs are the new poultry. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7582</p>
Exploring twenty-first century social evils: Individualism?	Lawson, Neal (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Thake, Stephen (speaker, male)	Dr Rake, Katherine (speaker, female)	Unwin CBE, Julia (speaker, female; Chair)		2008.11.18	RSA, London	<p>In line with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation’s public consultation exploring social evils, the panel will look at whether there has been a rise in individualism in UK society. At the turn of the century Joseph Rowntree set up his three trusts and identified the worst social evils of the time. In 2007 the Joseph Rowntree Foundation asked the public to consider what social evils face the UK today. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7583</p>
RSA Thursday - Ben Schott 'Re-views' the Year	Schott, Ben (speaker, male)						2008.11.20	RSA, London	<p>Ben Schott, the author of the phenomenally popular Schott’s Miscellanies and Almanacs, visits the RSA to offer a witty review of 2008. As well as looking back at the major news stories that defined the year, Ben will also be sharing some of his more obscure discoveries, and making predictions for the year ahead, in inimitable Schott style. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7584</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Vodafone Event - Young people and technology: opportunities and pitfalls in a virtual world	Beadle, Phil (speaker, male)	Carr, John (speaker, male)	Dyer, Sarah (speaker, female)	Bazalgette, Cary (speaker, female)	Chair: Cellan-Jones, Rory (speaker, male)		2008.11.20	RSA, London	<p>With the advent of mobile phone family plans, tracking devices in trainers and school uniforms, and 'Wii' home educational games, hi-tech gadgets and systems are at once granting parents better connectivity to their children, and at the same time allowing young people a secure and healthy independence from their parents.</p> <p>But with great progress comes great responsibility. From 'happy-slapping' to cyberbullying to online predators, the opportunities offered by access to these technologies also have the potential to put young people at risk.</p> <p>As we embark upon National Anti-Bullying Week (17-21 Nov), we are compelled to ask: What structures can we put in place to reduce the risks and how do we draw the line between ensuring protection and allowing free access? And what is the role of government, regulatory bodies, parents and teachers? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7585</p>
Advancing the Games: the IOC, London 2012 and the future of de Coubertin's Olympic Movement	Rogge, Jacques (speaker, male)	Coe KBE, Sebastian (speaker, male)	Kelly OBE, Jude (speaker, female)	Dame Holme, Kelly (speaker, female)	Byford, Mark (speaker, male)		2008.11.24	RSA, London	<p>London 2012 Pierre De Coubertin Lecture in association with the RSA and the British Olympic Foundation. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7586</p>
2008 Edward Boyle Memorial Lecture - Democratic Citizens or Cogs in the Machine: political efficacy in an age of media interactivity	Coleman, Stephen (speaker, male)	Crabtree, James (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; Chair)				2008.11.24	RSA, London	<p>Stephen Coleman, professor of political communication at Leeds University, believes there is a disconnect between government and the people, based on a growing public fear that individuals no longer have the power to influence the political world. Coleman draws upon new research and public survey data to argue that the internet has the potential to open up a new space for civic efficacy. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7587</p>
The Art of Public Strategy	Mulgan, Geoff (speaker, male)	Maude MP, Francis (speaker, male)					2008.11.26	RSA, London	<p>Geoff Mulgan and Francis Maude MP will look at the strategies adopted by governments and ask how can we mobilise money, people and technologies and public commitment to achieve important goals? Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7588</p>
Philanthrocapitalism: how the rich can save the world and why we should let them	Green, Michael (speaker, male)	Wheeler, Peter (speaker, male)					2008.11.27	RSA, London	<p>Join Michael Green and Peter Wheeler to discuss the challenges for philanthrocapitalism in the UK in the midst of the financial crisis. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7589</p>
The Annual RDI Address	Bloxham, Tom (speaker, male)						2008.11.27	RSA, London	<p>Tom Bloxham gives the annual RDI Address. He draws on his exceptional experience of urban renewal projects to show how good design can survive the economic downturn. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7590</p>
Nuclear Forum Nuclear Landscape and Legacy	Wills, John (speaker, male)	Skelton, Pam (speaker, female)	Acord, James (speaker, male)	Triscott, Nicola (speaker, female; Chair)			2008.11.28	RSA, London	<p>Partnership event with Arts Catalyst, SCAN and Arts Council England. Forum where both scientists and artists present different views on the role of the nuclear power and weapons industry (and their relationship) in the contemporary landscape. Includes audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7591</p>
Nuclear Forum Clean Energy	Barnham, Keith (speaker, male)	Kyprianou, Kyp (speaker, male)	Hollington, Simon (speaker, male)	Oakley, Chris (speaker, male)	Sloan, Helen (speaker, female; Chair)		2008.11.28	RSA, London	<p>Partnership event with Arts Catalyst, SCAN and Arts Council England. Forum where both scientists and artists present different views on the role of the nuclear power and weapons industry (and their relationship) in the contemporary landscape. Includes audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7592</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Nuclear Forum Proliferation and Apocalypse	Hudson, Kate (speaker, female)	Metzger, Gustav (speaker, male)	La Frenais, Rob (speaker, male; Chair)				2008.11.28	RSA, London	Partnership event with Arts Catalyst, SCAN and Arts Council England. Forum where both scientists and artists present different views on the role of the nuclear power and weapons industry (and their relationship) in the contemporary landscape. Includes audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7593
RSA Screens - Us Now	Gormley, Ivo (speaker, male)	Rangaswami, JP (speaker, male)					2008.12.03	RSA, London	Audience questions following the screening of documentary film, Us Now which explores mass collaboration, the internet and its power to transform society.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7594
RSA Thursday - Organising and Disorganising	Thompson, Michael (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (chairperson, male)					2008.12.04	RSA, London	Michael Thompson discusses his seminal work in Cultural Theory and explores new solutions to seemingly intractable problems such as climate change and the credit crunch. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7595
The Philosopher and the Wolf: lessons from the wild on love, death and happiness	Rowlands, Mark (speaker, male)	Gray, John (speaker, male)					2008.12.04	RSA, London	Philosopher Mark Rowlands explores human behaviour and emotional intelligence with political philosopher John Gray. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7596
RSA Screens - An Independent Mind	Bloomstein, Rex (speaker, male)	Miller, Jonathan (chairperson, male)					2008.12.08	RSA, London	Audience questions following the screening of documentary film, An Independent Mind looking at the most fundamental and controversial of human rights: freedom of expression.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7597
RSA Bossom Lecture - Thoughts on the Design of Cities and Buildings	Rogers, Richard (speaker, male)	Glancey, Jonathan (chairperson, male)					2008.12.09	RSA, London	Renowned architect, Richard Rogers gives this year's annual RSA Bossom lecture on architecture. He addresses some of the key opportunities and challenges in contemporary architecture today. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7598
The RSA/WWF Debates - Meeting global challenges: the role of first movers and new coalitions	Peck, Jules (speaker, male)	Jones, Rt Rev James (speaker, male)	Jackson, Tim (speaker, male)	Aaronovitch, David (speaker, male)	Riddoch, Lesley (chairperson, female)		2008.12.10	RSA, London	In the second of a series of events with WWF, our panel look to further the debate on the role that societal values play in driving and constraining responses to global challenges. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7599
RSA Thursday - Beyond Terror and Martyrdom	Kepel, Gilles (speaker, male)						2008.12.11	RSA, London	Renowned Middle East analyst Gilles Kepel explores the terms of a new and constructive dialogue between Islam and the West. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7600
Building Britain's Future Prosperity	Mandelson, Peter (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (chairperson, male)					2008.12.17	RSA, London	Business Secretary Peter Mandelson, comes to the RSA to speak about securing Britain's economic future. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7601
RSA Thursday - Israel and Palestine: strategies for peace	Freedland, Jonathan (speaker, male)	Kamm, Oliver (speaker, male)	Bari Atwan, Abdel (speaker, male)	Professor Sir Freedman, Lawrence (speaker, male)	Linton MP, Martin (speaker, male; Chair)		2009.01.08	RSA, London	Discuss on what Hamas, Israel and the Palestinian Authority should do next and whether Europe and the United States stand a chance of brokering a lasting peace. While diplomatic moves are vital in order to bring an end to the violence, the complex web of interests at play among the key actors - and the pressures upon them - makes a comprehensive political solution difficult to achieve. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7602
Chico Mendes Legacy: The role of the arts in environmental activism	Westwood, Vivienne (speaker, female)	Heritage, Paul (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Dove, Jonathan (speaker, male)	Kronick, Charlie (speaker, male)		2009.01.13	RSA, London	RSA Arts & Ecology teams up with the Young Vic and People's Palace Projects to present a lively encounter programmed to coincide with Amazônia, the theatre's latest extraordinary production inspired by the life and legacy of world-famous environmental activist, Chico Mendes, who was assassinated because of his political views in December 1988. The event explores deforestation, the role that the arts play in environmental activism today and asks how the arts can help shift society's attitudes in the face of unprecedented climate change. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7603

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - Moral Relativism	Lukes, Steven (speaker, male)						2009.01.15	RSA, London	Join Steven Lukes as he examines what people believe and why. Is there any common ground, or is it simply a matter of 'us' and 'them'? In the current age of mass immigration, religious extremism and international terrorism, issues of global morality are more pertinent than ever. But many people who are naturally inclined to believe in universal 'human rights' also have a fear of ethnocentric arrogance. This conflict is central to the highly-charged debate about moral relativism. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7604
The Science of Lifelong Learning	Pollard, Andrew (speaker, male)	Howard-Jones, Paul (speaker, male)	Goswami, Usha (speaker, female)	Blakemore, Sarah-Jayne (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Chair: Schuller, Tom (speaker, male; Chair)	2009.01.20	RSA, London	What does new research, especially in neuroscience, tell us about the scope for and best methods of lifelong learning in the context of an ageing society? What happens to the brain's learning capacity as it ages, and how dependent is this on environmental factors? Is the explosion in brain training (from 10 minute newspaper mental workouts to Kawashima's brain training game) based on good science? What is the scope for cognition enhancing treatment from CBT to drugs and how will this affect teaching and learning? Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7605
RSA Thursday - Living with a Black Dog	Brampton, Sally (speaker, female)	Johnstone, Matthew (speaker, male)	O'Brien, Rachel (speaker, female; Chair)				2009.01.22	RSA, London	With a recent BMJ survey estimating that a quarter of Britons currently suffer some form of mental health problem, the need to discuss, analyse and destigmatise the issues surrounding mental health is paramount. Does our current culture, with its emphasis on individualism and perceived lack of community cohesion contribute to this alarming statistic? And will a deepening recession, with its accompanying anxieties and implications for employment and individual finance only serve to exacerbate this problem? Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7606
The Long and the Short of It	Kay, John (speaker, male)	Jay, Peter (speaker, male; Chair)					2009.01.22	RSA, London	Leading economist John Kay offers an essential guide to the basics of investment and the sophisticated innovations of the modern financial system. Followed by audience questions. Due to a fault with the AV equipment only the Q&A session was recorded.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7607
The Obama future - in the light of the past	Reynolds, David (speaker, male)	Greer, Bonnie (speaker, female; Chair)					2009.01.28	RSA, London	Drawing on his BBC Radio 4 history and new book America, Empire of Liberty, David will look at the limits of presidential power, the challenges of economic crisis and the travails of global leadership. He will also reflect on Obama's place within longer-term patterns in American life such as those of race and religion. Followed by audience questions.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7608

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - The Romantic Economist: Imagination in Economics	Bronk, Richard (speaker, male)						2009.01.29	RSA, London	<p>Richard Bronk offers a highly original analysis of economic activity, which looks beyond rationalism, to address the imaginative, creative and social aspects of economies.</p> <p>In an intriguing and timely new book, which draws together orthodox economics, philosophy and literary criticism, Richard Bronk encourages economists and other social scientists to broaden their analytical repertoire and to learn from the insights into human action of Romantic writers.</p> <p>By bridging the divide between literature and science, and between Romanticism and narrow forms of Rationalism, Bronk argues that we can find fresh, perhaps unexpected, and certainly vitally necessary, new ways to enrich and improve our economic thinking. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7609</p>
Cognitive Neuroscience and Regulatory Paternalism, More or Less	Camerer, Colin (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; Chair)					2009.01.30	RSA, London	<p>Colin Camerer is one of the world's leading behavioural economists. At the launch of the RSA's Social Brain project, he will talk about whether cognitive neuroscience and behavioural economics can inform how the State develops and implements policy. Followed by audience questions.</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7610</p>
RSA Thursday - The Element	Sir Robinson, Ken (speaker, male)						2009.02.05	RSA, London	<p>Sir Ken Robinson, one of the world's most inspirational speakers on creativity, education and enterprise, visits the RSA to share new thinking on 'The Element' - the point at which natural talent meets personal passion. In a new book, Sir Ken argues that we are all born with tremendous natural capacities, but that we lose touch with them as we spend more time in the world. Whether it's a child bored in class, an employee being misused or just someone who feels frustrated but can't quite explain why, too many people don't know what they are really capable of achieving. And education, business and society as a whole are losing out. At a time of deepening recession, we simply cannot afford to squander the skills and talents that will be vital to our future economic prosperity. Sir Ken will show how we can nurture our creative potential more fully and consider: What is required for organisations to survive in a difficult economic climate? What skills are successful business people exercising to maintain productivity, faced with increased competition, fluctuating markets and rapid advancements in technology? How do we prepare the workforce to meet these challenges and help them, individually and collectively, to realise</p>	<p>Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7611</p>
RSA Screens – True Stories: Burma VJ	Østergaard, Anders (speaker, male)	Roberts, Anna (speaker, female)					2009.02.10	RSA, London	<p>Going beyond the occasional news clip from Burma, the acclaimed filmmaker, Anders Østergaard brings us close to Burma's video journalists who insist on keeping up the flow of news from their closed country despite risking torture and life in jail. Armed with small handycams they make their undercover reportages, smuggle the material out of the country and broadcast back into Burma via satellite or offered as free usage for international media. This candid film gives us a special insight into the Buddhist monk uprising of 2007. Following a group of underground video journalists we witness the dangers they face as they attempt to report the truth to the outside world.</p>	<p>There is no audio file available for this event.</p>

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Out of the red and into the green - After the credit crunch: a more sustainable future?	Lord Smith (speaker, male; chair)	Taylor, Matthew (speaekr, male)	Brown, Anthony (speaker, male)				2009.02.11	RSA, London	The impacts of the credit crunch and current global economic difficulties are forcing us all to rethink many of our assumptions about the economy, consumption and society. At the same time the urgency of addressing the problem of climate change is increasing and we haven't got much time left in finding more sustainable ways of living, travelling, working and organising ourselves. Could the new economic circumstances that emerge from the current turmoil lead to a more sustainable future? And what might consequences be - for individuals, for businesses, for society as a whole, and for the environment?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7611
RSA Thursday - On Kindness	O'Brien, Rachel (speaker, female; chair)	Taylor, Barbara (speaker, female)					2009.02.12	RSA, London	The pleasures of kindness have been well known since the dawn of Western thought. Kindness, said Marcus Aurelius, was mankind's 'greatest delight' - and centuries of thinkers and writers have echoed him. But today, kindness seems to have gone out of fashion. In the age of free-market capitalism and the selfish gene, kindness is all too often regarded narcissism or weakness. Have we, as a species, become deeply and fundamentally antagonistic to each other, with motives that are generally self-seeking? In a new book, On Kindness (co-authored with psychologist Adam Phillips), historian Barbara Taylor calls for a re-discovery of the pleasures of kindness, and argues that what the Victorians called 'open-heartedness' and the Christians 'caritas' remains essential to our emotional and mental well-being.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7612
RSA Thursday - What Makes a Good Childhood?	Layard, Richard (speaker, male)						2009.02.19	RSA, London	Is life really more difficult for children today than it was, and if so why? And how can we make it better? Professor Lord Layard visits the RSA to debate the findings of a two year investigation by the Children's Society which draws upon the work of the UK's leading experts in many fields, explores the main stresses and influences to which every child is exposed - family, friends, youth culture, values, and schooling, and makes recommendations as to how we can improve the upbringing of our children.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7613
The Vanishing Face of Gaia	Lovelock, James (speaker)	Radford, Tim (speaker, male; chair)					2009.02.23	RSA, London	James Lovelock, the groundbreaking originator of Gaia theory, visits the RSA to warn that we are about to reach a tipping point, beyond which our planet will not recover sufficiently to sustain human life comfortably. How can we realign the delicate balance of forces that make the Earth conducive to human life?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7614
RSA Thursday - Media Responsibility in the New Authoritarian Age	Gedmin, Jeffrey (speaker, male)	Chandler, Robert (speaker, male)	Richards, Susan (speaker, female)	Lloyd, John (speaker, male; chair)			2009.02.26	RSA, London	President of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Dr Jeffrey Gedmin is one of a growing number of advocates for press freedom concerned by the worsening situation for the news media in Russia, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The aim of RFE/RL is to provide uncensored news, information, and discussion of domestic and international issues to countries where free and independent media are not permitted, or not yet fully established. In some parts of the former USSR, RFE's broadcasts are being jammed. Jeff Gedmin comes to the RSA to debate the seriousness of the threat to media pluralism and security in the region, and to discuss the broader role of free and independent news media in building and maintaining political and civil freedom. Do broadcasters such as RFE/RL - first established as an instrument of US soft power during the Cold War - have a justifiable role to play?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7615

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Doctor Atomic: what is really behind the development of science?	Adams, John (speaker, male)	Woolcock, Penny (speaker, female)	Professor Wolpert, Lewis (speaker)	Baggott, Jim (speaker, male)	Shaha, Alom (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)	2009.02.26	RSA, London	As composer John Adams' latest opera, Doctor Atomic, opens at ENO for the first time in the UK, we will convene a panel of expert commentators to ask: what really drives scientific development? Despite great progress and even greater possibilities for the future, many people feel uneasy about the potentially destructive applications of certain scientific advances. Throughout history, money, power and politics have all played crucial roles in significant scientific development. So is it realistic to expect that science can ever be neutral? How do we introduce greater clarity into public debates about science and ethics? Can literature and the dramatic arts make the human dimension of science more vivid in the public imagination? Would greater understanding of this human dimension help us understand the complex pressures operating upon scientists on the cusp of ground-breaking research?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7616
Dispatches from the War Room: the public, polling and democratic leadership	Greenberg, Stanley B (speaker, male)	Riddell, Peter (speaker, male; chair)					2009.03.03	RSA, London	Stanley B. Greenberg has been described as "the father of modern polling techniques," and "the Robert DeNiro" of political consultants. Over the years he has advised an extraordinary range of world leaders - from Bill Clinton to Al Gore, from Nelson Mandela to Tony Blair and Ehud Barak. For these men to make history, they had to construct hard-hitting campaigns and "war rooms" using polling strategy to define the choices voters had. Stanley Greenberg visits the RSA to share his unique insights into modern political campaigning, and to discuss new developments in engaging voters and bringing political change, based on the Obama campaign in the United States. Based on his new book, Dispatches from the War Room, Greenberg will discuss how leaders define the political moment, mobilise voters and struggle to govern successfully, while keeping people with them.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The 2020 Challenge for Public Service	Byrne, Liam (speaker, male)	Sir Andrew Foster (speaker, male)	Lucas, Ben (speaker, male; chair)				2009.03.04	RSA, London	In a major speech, Rt Hon Liam Byrne MP, will set out his thinking on the priorities for public service policy in the coming decade. Through investment and reform, substantial improvements have been made to public services over the last decade and the pace of reform, in creating new Academies, establishing Foundation Trusts and transforming welfare, is accelerating. But over the next decade new trends will change the nature of demands to which public services will have to respond. These trends are likely to include: a more diverse population, new sources of risk, the information revolution, an ageing society, and profound behavioural challenges (e.g. in relation to public health or the environment). All this at a time when the economic environment will be much tougher and public services will have to achieve even more within tighter public spending constraints. Liam will consider how, in the context of these challenges, reform in the next decade will need increasingly to transfer power from the centre to citizens, front line deliverers, and communities. He will draw on the inspiration of an earlier generation of Labour thinkers and social innovators to look at the role community based social entrepreneurship could play	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - The Spirit Level: why more equal societies almost always do better	Wilkinson, Richard (speaker, male)	Pickett, Kate (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)				2009.03.05	RSA, London	Large inequalities of income in a society have often been regarded as divisive and corrosive, and it is common knowledge that in rich societies the poor have shorter lives and suffer more from almost every social problem. But in their new book <i>The Spirit Level</i> , Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett draw upon thirty years' research to demonstrate that more unequal societies are bad for almost everyone within them - the well-off as well as the poor. They show that almost every modern social and environmental problem - ill-health, lack of community life, violence, drugs, obesity, mental illness, long working hours, big prison populations - is more likely to occur in a less equal society. Join Richard Wilkinson, Professor of Social Epidemiology, University of Nottingham and Kate Pickett, Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology, University of York, to consider a new approach to tackling the social challenges which, despite material success, continue to beset us	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The Decisive Moment	Lehrer, Jonah (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.03.05	RSA, London	Since Plato, philosophers have described the decision-making process as either rational or emotional: we carefully deliberate or we 'blink' and go with our gut. But as scientists break open the mind's black box with the latest tools of neuroscience, they're discovering this is not how the mind works. Jonah Lehrer, author and editor-at-large for <i>Seed Magazine</i> , suggests that our best decisions are a finely tuned blend of both feeling and reason - and the precise mix depends on the situation. The trick is to determine when to lean on which part of the brain, and to do this, we need to think harder (and smarter) about how we think. Join Jonah as he looks to answer two key questions: How does the human mind make decisions? And how can we make those decisions better?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Democracy in Dangerous Places	Collier, Paul (speaker, male)	Hastings, Max (speaker, male; chair)					2009.03.09	RSA, London	One of the world's most highly-regarded development economists, Paul Collier visits the RSA to explain what must be done to bring long-term peace and stability to the countries at the bottom of the world economy that are home to a billion people. In his new book <i>Wars, Guns and Votes</i> , Collier argues that the spread of elections and peace settlements in the world's most volatile countries may lead eventually to a brave new democratic world. In the meantime, though, nasty and protracted civil wars, military coups, and failing economies will plague the bottom billion - unless national sovereignty is curtailed and economic disciplines introduced. There have been many policy failures by the United States, the UK and other developed countries since the end of the Cold War, especially the reliance on pre-emptive military intervention, but Collier insists that these problems can and will be rectified.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
The Public Domain: enclosing the commons of the mind	Boyle, James (speaker, male)	Thompson, Bill (speaker, male; chair)					2009.03.10	RSA, London	In his new book The Public Domain, Professor James Boyle describes how our culture, science and economic welfare all depend on the delicate balance between those ideas that are controlled and those that are free, between intellectual property and the public domain—the realm of material that everyone is free to use and share without permission or fee. Intellectual property laws have a significant impact on many important areas of human endeavour, including scientific innovation, digital creativity, cultural access and free speech. And so Boyle argues that, just as every informed citizen needs to know at least something about the environment or civil rights, every citizen in the information age should also have an understanding of intellectual property law. Is the public domain as vital to knowledge, innovation and culture as the realm of material protected by intellectual property rights? James Boyle thinks so and visits the RSA to call for a new movement to preserve it. If we continue to enclose the “commons of the mind”, Boyle argues, we will all be the poorer.	Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - The 1984 Miners’ Strike and the Death of Industrial Britain	Lord Hunt (speaker, male)	Lord Kinnock (speaker, male)	Beckett, Francis (speaker, male)	Hencke, David (speaker, male)			2009.03.12	RSA, London	To mark the 25th anniversary of the Miners’ Strike we invite a panel of key players and commentators to look back at one of the defining moments of modern British history. In a revelatory new book Marching to the Fault Line leading journalists Francis Beckett and David Hencke have drawn upon their unrivalled access to key government and union players to get to the heart of the story of the strike, from Downing Street to the picket lines. They are joined at the RSA by Neil Kinnock and David Hunt to discuss the dramatic events which unfolded over the 11 months of the strike, and to consider the lasting legacy of the strike which ended a way of life for hundreds of thousands as Attlee’s vision of a welfare state, trade unions and strong government was replaced by Thatcher’s Britain.	Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
How Does Experience Influence the Brain?	Gould, Elizabeth (speaker, female)						2009.03.17	RSA, London	Pioneering neurogenesis researcher and professor of psychology at Princeton University, Professor Elizabeth Gould comes to the RSA to discuss how experience literally shapes and alters the physical structure of the brain. The realisation that the surroundings and environments of mammals not only influence their emotional well-being, but also the neuronal constitution of their brains, is one of the most momentous discoveries of modern psychology and neuroscience. Gould’s research shows how stressful experiences in both early and adult life inhibit the survival of existing neurons and the creation of new ones, and has demonstrated that enriched environments and societies result in marked increases in neuron production. This breakthrough has profound and dramatic implications for social progress and understanding, and can add to our appreciation of the impact of poverty, social exclusion and stress on individuals and communities. Does increased social activity and interaction boost the creation of new neurons, and if so, how? How do these discoveries relate to memory and learning? What are the links between neurogenesis, brain plasticity and mental wellbeing? Join Elizabeth Gould as she receives the prestigious	Yes. Please contact the British Library’s Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
The Brain that Changes Itself	Doidge, Norman (speaker, male)	SurrIDGE, Chris (speaker, male; chair)					2009.03.18	RSA, London	The discovery of neuroplasticity, or the 'changing brain', is one of neuroscience's most dramatic and exciting revelations, and has profound implications for almost all aspects of human endeavour. Dr Norman Doidge shows how outside influences and experiences can literally 'shape' our brains, with inevitable repercussions for education, society, culture and human capacity in general.	There is no audio file available for this event.
Public Health: how to influence behaviour - nudge or nanny?	Johnson, Alan (Speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Lucas, Ben (speaker, male; chair)				2009.03.19	RSA, London	The perils of infectious disease, which shaped the NHS in the 20th century, have largely receded. The majority of illness in this country is caused by poor diet, smoking and lack of exercise. Poor health is disproportionately seen in disadvantaged communities, where poor local services and limited opportunities to exercise conspire with poor education and low aspiration. The great challenge for policy makers is how to influence people's behaviour - if health and wellbeing is to a large part decided by the day-to-day choices that people make, then when and how should the government intervene?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - The Rushdie Affair and its Legacy	Malik, Kenan (speaker, male)	Appignanesi, Lisa (speaker, female; chair)					2009.03.19	RSA, London	Twenty years on, the questions raised by the Rushdie Affair - Islam's relationship to the West, the meaning of multiculturalism, the limits of tolerance in a liberal society - have become some of the most significant issues of our time. Writer and broadcaster Kenan Malik looks back at this defining episode and explores its continuing repercussions and resonance through to contemporary debates about Islam, terror, free speech and Western values	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Screens - True Stories: Afghan Star	Marking, Havana (speaker, female)	Lerner, Mike (speaker, male)	Beaumont, Peter (speaker, male; chair)				2009.03.24	RSA, London	10 years ago in Afghanistan if you sang, danced or even listened to music you risked imprisonment or even death. Seen through the eyes of ambitious pop hopefuls, all competing to become the next 'Afghan Star' this documentary explores the birth of a new, optimistic Afghanistan. As the drama of the elimination round unfolds, this heart-warming and candid film follows four contestants' stories, uncovering issues of gender, democracy, free press and above all the power of music in this scarred and fragile nation.	There is no audio file available for this event.
RSA Thursday - Rebuilding America's Relationship with the Muslim World	Nakhleh, Emile (speaker, male)	Spencer, Claire (Speaker, female; chair)					2009.03.26	RSA, London	Former director of the Political Islam Strategic Analysis Program at the CIA, Emile Nakhleh comes to the RSA to make the case for a renewal of American public diplomacy in the Muslim world. Nakhleh investigates recent U.S. policy toward Islamic nations and offers the new Obama administration a ten-point plan for rebuilding America's relationship with the Muslim world. Offering fascinating insights into how intelligence bureaucracies operate and how organisational habits of thought can be challenged and changed, Nakhleh will stress that effective public diplomacy must be a serious, coordinated effort pursued at the highest political levels.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA/Encyclopaedia Britannica Debate - The Economic Crisis and the Age of Uncertainty		Professor Lord Eatwell (speaker, male)	Keen, Andrew (speaker, male)	Hind, Dan (speaker, mae)			2009.03.26	RSA, London	In the second event in the RSA/Britannica "Confidence in Knowledge" series our speakers ask: To what extent has the global economic crisis triggered a crisis of confidence in our previously trusted repositories of knowledge? What do the failures of the financial system tell us about the dangers of a hierarchal system of knowledge where power lies in the hands of a professional elite? Can we continue to have confidence in the professional authority of bankers, financiers and economists, when they seem to have so grossly failed us? Has economics as a discipline failed? Do these failures further case for new organisational models, based on more open, more transparent cultures of collaboration (the "wikinomics" model)? Does the democratisation of knowledge and wealth of information offered by the internet open up the possibility of taking economic decision-making out of the academy and institutions, and into the hands of individual citizens? Or should we be wary of blurring the expert/amateur divide and trusting too much in the wisdom of crowds?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA/WWF Series on Global Challenges and the Values We Live By	Singer, Peter (speaker, male)						2009.03.30	RSA, London	This series of RSA/WWF debates focuses on barriers to, and strategies for, the introduction of a broader set of values in current public discourse. Recognising that societal values both drive and constrain responses to the global challenges that we confront, the debates ask: can we hope to meet these challenges whilst working within the matrix of values that currently dominate in society? Is engaging with societal values a quixotic exercise – or the only hope that we have? The RSA has been at the forefront of tackling complex social, economic and environmental challenges and pioneering practical solutions for over 250 years. WWF addresses global threats to people and nature such as climate change and the unsustainable consumption of the world's natural resources. It does this by influencing how governments, businesses and people think, learn and act in relation to the world around us, and by working with local communities to improve their livelihoods and the environment upon which we all depend.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - The Fat Tail	Bremmer, Ian (speaker, male)	Johnson, Luke (speaker, male; chair)					2009.04.02	RSA, London	In recent years, investors have learned the hard truth that in the international economy, politics often matters at least as much as economic fundamentals for the performance of global markets. Too many companies and investors haven't yet learned to read the warning signs: their expertise lies much more in economics than politics, and the temptation is to hope that highly volatile situations such as the 2008 Georgia-Russia confrontation will be few and far between. In a new groundbreaking book The Fat Tail, Ian Bremmer and his co-author Preston Keat, two of the world's leading figures in political risk management, identify the wide range of political risks that global firms face - risks that stem from great power rivalries, terrorist groups, government takeover of private property, weak leaders and internal strife, and even the "black swans" that defy prediction. These scenarios - and their catastrophic effects on business - happen much more frequently than we imagine. On the curve that charts both the frequency of these events and the power of their impact, the 'tail' of extreme political instability is not reassuringly thin but dangerously fat. Join us for	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Economic thinking after the crunch	Osborne, George (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)	Johnson, Luke (speaker, male; chair)				2009.04.08	RSA, London	Shadow Chancellor George Osborne discusses the impact of new insights from economics and the social sciences on the Conservative Party's policies.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
New Media Futures: what next for content and creativity?	Leonhard, Gerd (speaker, male)	Titus, Richard (speaker, male)	Smith, David (speaker, male)	Simon, Ralph (speaker, male; chair)			2009.04.08	RSA, London	The internet is radically disrupting most of the traditional content distribution and selling models, starting with music and games, followed by TV, film, books and print publishing. Once everyone is always-on, mobile and hyper-connected, and everything is available everywhere, how will content be created, distributed, marketed, consumed, and paid for? Who will do what, for whom, and how will the traditional players such as broadcasters, record labels, publishers and distributors adapt? If new players, starting with telecoms, device makers, advertisers and brands, indeed move into the content business, what will be their challenges and opportunities? Given the challenging financial climate, how do we reconcile the need to reward enterprise and secure sustainable revenue streams, with the expectations and demands of the "freeconomics" generation? What kind of legal, regulatory and cultural framework do we need to ensure that this new ecosystem of creators, consumers and intermediaries generates more benefits for all involved? A panel of media visionaries convene at the RSA to predict the innovations in technology, business models and user behaviour that will shape the media landscape in	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work	de Botton, Alain (speaker, male)						2009.04.09	RSA, London	Alain de Botton; renowned essayist, philosopher and founder of 'The School of Life' will be examining the nature and function of work in this thought-provoking lecture. Most of our waking hours are spent at work, and yet we rarely challenge the basic assumptions that lie behind this time-consuming, life-altering activity.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The Many Avatars of the Indian Creative Mind	Sen, Amartya (speaker, male)	Nilekani, Nandan M (speaker, male)	Seth, Vikram (speaker, male)	Guha, Ramachandra (speaker, male)	Davidar, David (speaker, male; chair)		2009.04.20	RSA, London	Is multiplicity a particularly Indian trait? Our panel of distinguished speakers will discuss this intriguing question.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The Brain and The Law	Dr Eagleman, David (speaker, male)	Dr Grist, Matt (speaker, male; chair)					2009.04.21	RSA, London	Emerging questions at the interface of law and neuroscience challenge assumptions at the heart of criminality and punishment. Is it a legitimate defence, for example, to claim that a brain tumour or unique neural wiring "made you do it"? Will neuroscience inform sentencing decisions by offering a better prediction of recidivism? Can novel technologies such as brain imaging be leveraged for new methods of rehabilitation? If most behaviours are driven by systems of the brain that we cannot control, how should the law assess responsibility?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The New Business of Business	Kharas, Zarine (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.04.22	RSA, London	Zarine Kharas, founder and CEO of online fundraising website Justgiving.com, is awarded the 2009 Albert Medal for democratising fundraising and technology for charities. Kharas will argue that, with both banking and politics in disgrace, it is up to companies to create lasting social value. To achieve this, the rule book needs to be thrown out and the maximisation of profit replaced with a more balanced sense of purpose. Kharas will talk about business responsibility and highlight the unorthodox ways in which Justgiving operates - a fascinating, and successful, example of a more humane and enlightened enterprise.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - Neuroscience, Free Will and Responsibility	Professor Frith, Christopher (speaker, male)	Rose, Nikolas (speaker, male; chair)					2009.04.23	RSA, London	Is free will an illusion? Distinguished neuroscientist Professor Christopher Frith details recent research on the neural underpinnings of choice, and explains how the experience of free will is critical for cultural understanding, moral frameworks and responsibility to the self and others.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Get It: The power of cultural learning	Atkinson, Maggie (speaker, female)	Peyton-Jones, Julia (speaker, female)	Heywood, Vikki (speaker, female)	Roberts, Paul (speaker, male; chair)			2009.04.27	RSA, London	The RSA and the Culture & Learning Consortium present a public debate to launch the first report of the Culture and Learning Consortium.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Mindfield	Frank, Lone (speaker, female)	Carter, Rita (speaker, female; chair)					2009.04.29	RSA, London	Lone Frank, Denmark's most distinguished science writer and author of the bestselling book Mindfield comes to the RSA to discuss the implications of the coming age of 'neurocentrism'. Join Lone as she investigates the neural basis for empathy and morality, and looks at the economic, legal and political ramifications of the 'social brain'. What does it really mean to be human? What is the neurological nature of religious experience? Is there really a science of happiness? And how can we harness the power of the 'neurorevolution' to change the world?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - Voodoo Histories: the role of conspiracy theory in shaping modern history	Aaronovitch, David (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.04.30	RSA, London	Join journalist and broadcaster David Aaronovitch at the RSA as he carefully probes and explodes a dozen of the major conspiracy theories of the modern era. In doing so, he looks at why our age is obsessed by the idea of conspiracy, asks why quality newspapers and series TV channels are prepared to give these theories credence, and outlines his argument for a true scepticism: one based on a thorough knowledge of history and a strong dose of common sense.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA President's Lecture 2009: How Can Milk Cost Less Than Water?	Professor McKellar, Quintin (speaker, male)	HRH Duke of Edinburgh KT					2009.05.05	RSA, London	The remarkable advances in agricultural productivity in recent years have dramatically increased efficiency and output; clearly evidenced by the fact that milk now costs less than bottled water. Nutrition, breeding and disease control have contributed to this bounty, but the industry will soon be imperilled by rapid population expansion, drug-resistant infection, and significant environmental degradation. Feeding three billion more people over the next fifty years, whilst conserving and protecting our natural environment is going to be one of the great challenges of the 21st Century. Quintin McKellar, Professor of Veterinary Science, The Royal Veterinary College, will outline the ways in which we can continue to improve effectiveness within the industry, assess and implement strategies to contain the considerable damage agriculture has had on the environment, whilst encouraging liberalised global markets to ensure free and plentiful trade.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - Emotional Intelligence: does it affect learning and educational success?	Professor Bynner, John (speaker, male)	Chaytor, David (speaker, male)	Beere, Jackie (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)			2009.05.07	RSA, London	In education there has been a lot of interest in school children's emotional and social abilities – their 'emotional intelligence' as well as their conventional intelligence. Today many UK schools, both at primary and secondary level, are involved in Government-backed initiatives, such as the DCSF's Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme, to improve some of these skills in their pupils – with the overall aim of improving not only behaviour but also educational attainment. A recent study carried out by Cambridge Assessment has shown that some aspects of emotional intelligence – in particular self-motivation and low impulsivity – significantly predict attainment in GCSE Sciences over and above the contribution made by academic ability (as measured by KS3 attainment). The latest phase investigates the relationship between emotional intelligence and performance in a wider range of GCSE subjects. In particular it addresses subjects such as English, Art and Drama, where understanding people's feelings are more obviously related to the subject matter. What effect does emotional intelligence have upon learning and educational success – and is it possible to improve it with training programmes? Is funding	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
We can't go on like this': British higher education as it is and as it could be	Professor Thrift, Nigel (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.05.13	RSA, London	RSA/Fulbright Commission Lecture. Professor Nigel Thrift, Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick, argues that the British higher education system is a monotone ecology which is no longer fit for purpose, and which must change if it is to be able to cope with the shifts now going on in higher education around the world. He believes that the system needs to be redesigned so that it preserves and expands the educational and research capacity that has been successfully built up over the last twenty years. Half measures will not work. In his RSA/Fulbright lecture, Professor Thrift will examine a series of policy options which, in concert, can deliver the kind of strong and diverse higher education system that the UK needs. These include: consolidation, foreign merger or takeover, privatization and specialization. Professor Thrift will suggest that a California-style system might be adopted which includes community colleges, a state system, and a private system. This system can answer a number of needs at once, including diversity of educational experience, widening participation, and research prowess.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - New Capitalism and the Bubble Economy	Doogan, Kevin (speaker, male)	Taylor, Laurie (speaker, male; chair)					2009.05.14	RSA, London	In the midst of the current crisis it is difficult to remember that up until quite recently people waxed lyrical about the wonders of the new economy. This was a new capitalism in which globalisation, technological change, deregulation and market liberalisation drove the world economy onwards and upwards. A distinct set of ideas had been developed to capture this new economy, in which nebulous concepts such as 'knowledge', 'networks', 'informationalism', and 'innovation' were used to depict a world of flows of communication and flows of capital; all motion and no matter. Renowned sociologist Kevin Doogan roots these developments in the rise of neoliberalism, and identifies three features of neoliberalism that help explain, not only the fragility of the bubble economy, but also reveal the nature of wealth accumulation in this period - deregulation, financialisation and changes in corporate governance. Kevin Doogan visits the RSA to show how these developments must be factored into the radical policy rethink that is currently underway. Doogan will argue that if we are to restore rationality to the management of the	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Can the Public be Trusted to Choose Public Art?	Snow, Jon (speaker, male; chair)	Perry, Grayson (speaker, male)	Jones, Jonathan (speaker, male)	Mirza, Munira (speaker, female)	Shoben, Andrew (speaker, male)		2009.05.20	RSA, London	From figures on a beach to a giant white horse, there's been an explosion of public art commissioning in the UK over the last decade, not witnessed since the Victorian era. But the art for our public spaces is chosen by 'experts' and committees. The public rarely has a say in what goes where. So should the public choose public art? What would happen if they did? And can we even afford public art in a recession? These are some of the questions that will be explored at The Art Fund's debate at the RSA which coincides with a four-part Channel 4 series Big Art starting on Sunday 10 May at 7pm. The programme follows the successes and setbacks experienced by seven communities across the UK who were given the opportunity to commission public art themselves in a Channel 4 initiative called the Big Art Project.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday – How Human Psychology Drives the Economy	Shiller, Robert (Speaker, male)	Finkelstein, Daniel (speaker, male; chair)					2009.05.21	RSA, London	Acclaimed economist Robert Shiller challenges the economic wisdom that got us into the current financial mess, and puts forward a bold new vision to transform economics and restore prosperity. The global financial crisis has made it clear that powerful psychological forces are imperilling the wealth of nations today. From blind faith in ever-rising housing prices to plummeting confidence in capital markets, 'animal spirits' are driving financial events worldwide. Shiller reasserts the necessity of an active government role in economic policymaking by recovering the idea of 'animal spirits', a term John Maynard Keynes used to describe the gloom and despondence that led to the Great Depression and the changing psychology that accompanied recovery. Managing these animal spirits argues Shiller, requires the steady hand of government - simply allowing markets to work won't do it. In rebuilding the case for a more robust, behaviourally informed Keynesianism, Shiller looks at the most pervasive effects of animal spirits in today's economic life - confidence, fear, bad faith, corruption, and a concern for fairness - showing how Reaganomics, Thatcherism, and the rational	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Screens - The Age of Stupid	Monbiot, George (speaker, male)	Armstrong, Franny (speaker, female)	Betts, Richard (speaker, male)	Lord Stern (speaker, male; chair)			2009.05.22	RSA, London	Indie Screenings is a revolutionary new distribution model which allows anyone, anywhere to screen independent films - and to keep the profits for their action campaign or pocket. To celebrate the 70 UK-wide screenings organised for the Friday May 22nd launch, the RSA is hosting a screening and post-film live webcast with Nicholas Stern, George Monbiot, Franny Armstrong and Dr Richard Betts.	There is no audio file available for this event.
Improving Health Outcomes for All	Lansley, Andrew (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.05.28	RSA, London	Andrew Lansley CBE MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, will deliver an important address on the future of healthcare, and will outline the ways in which we can ensure fewer inequalities and better outcomes for all.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday – Physics of the Impossible	Kaku, Michio (speaker, male)						2009.05.28	RSA, London	Theoretical physicist Dr Michio Kaku takes us on a journey to the frontiers of science and beyond, from death rays and force fields to invisibility cloaks - revealing to what extent such technologies might be possible in the future. Increasingly what was once declared 'impossible' by scientists has become part of our everyday lives. Turning science fiction into fact, Dr Kaku reveals the actual possibilities of anti-gravity, teleportation, psychokinesis, robots and cyborgs, time travel and extraterrestrial life, showing how few of these ideas actually violate the laws of physics.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
What has the Gates Foundation done for global health?	McCoy, David (speaker, male)	Bishop, Matthew (speaker, male)	Horton, Richard (speaker, male; chair)				2009.05.28	RSA, London	The Gates Foundation has rapidly become one of the biggest players in global health. Last year Bill Gates gave up being CEO of Microsoft to work full time at his Foundation, which has an endowment of \$60 billion (almost a quarter of that of the entire UN system) and has a legal requirement to spend \$3 billion on global health every year. While this philanthropic endeavour is laudable, the massive budget and scale of the Foundation have resulted in a complete change of the global health landscape, agenda and approach, and concerns have been raised over a perceived lack of accountability, a focus on high-tech solutions and particular funding favourites. Join our expert speakers to assess the role of the Gates Foundation in global public health and to determine whether the Gates Foundation might be doing more harm than good, or whether the Foundation and private philanthropy in general offers a new way forward for global health?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - God, Globalization, and the End of the War on Terror	Aslan, Reza (speaker, male)						2009.06.04	RSA, London	Internationally acclaimed writer and scholar Reza Aslan's new book, How To Win A Cosmic War: God, Globalization, and the End of the War on Terror, explodes the cosmic legacy of the Bush years that pitted Christianity against Islam and good against evil. Surveying the global scene from Israel to Iraq and from New York to the Netherlands, Aslan argues that religion is a stronger force today than it has been in a century. At a time when religion and politics are increasingly sharing the same vocabulary and functioning in the same sphere, Aslan believes that we must strip this ideological conflict of its religious connotations and address the actual grievances that fuel the Jihadist movement.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Finding New Opportunities Amid the Economic Wreckage	Frank, Robert (speaker, male)	Harford, Tim (speaker, male; chair)					2009.06.10	RSA, London	Join the renowned 'economic naturalist' Robert Frank, who argues that much of the handwringing about deficit-financed economic stimulus spending is overblown. For Frank, failure to engage in aggressive stimulus spending will simply prolong the downturn, causing tax receipts to decline further and result in even larger deficits. If stimulus spending is focused on investments that yield higher returns than government bonds, its effect will actually be to make our grandchildren richer, not poorer. But they would be much richer still in the long run if we paid for the same investments with our own money. Join Frank as he asks: How can we break out of our current, wasteful consumption pattern? Will a new taxation system solve all of our woes? And can we have 'more of everything' by eliminating economic waste?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
The Future of 14-19 Education and Training: Quality learning delivered through partnerships	Professor Pring, Richard (speaker, male)	Hodgson, Ann (speaker, female)	Burns, Kathryn (speaker, female)	Taylor, Matthew (Speaker, male; chair)			2009.06.10	RSA, London	Join our expert panel as they assess the key findings of the Nuffield Review and give recommendations for a wider vision of learning and its assessment. The final report of the Nuffield Review covers every aspect of 14-19 education and training – aims, quality of learning, curriculum, institutional provision, and progression into employment and higher education, and is the most comprehensive review of its kind since the Crowther Report in 1959. This groundbreaking report is particularly timely; the age of required education and training is being raised to 18 (ninety years since first proposed) and the recession is affecting the prospects of many young people. Is there a need for a broader vision of learning, perhaps one which respects that tradition of practical and experiential learning so long promoted by the RSA? How can we re-engage the disengaged? Do we need to develop stronger partnerships between schools, colleges, employers and others if that vision is to be realised? And ultimately, how can we ensure the collaborative provision of education for all?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - Talent is Overrated	Colvin, Geoff (speaker, male)	Cree, Richard (speaker, male; chair)					2009.06.11	RSA, London	Why do some people perform so much better than others? Where does great performance – in business, the arts, sports, the professions, or any other field – really come from? The answers are more important today than ever: in the midst of a brutal recession, the stakes for organizations and for individuals are extremely high. Yet scientific research shows that what most of us believe about great performance is largely wrong. Geoff Colvin, author of the bestseller Talent Is Overrated: What Really Separates World-Class Performers From Everybody Else, will visit the RSA to explain the surprising findings about achievement, work, and talent. With examples that range from Mozart to Tiger Woods, he shows that our performance is much more within our control than most of us realise, and our ability to improve – in any field and at any age – is greater than we tend to believe. He will also describe how widely diverse individuals and organizations are using these insights to improve their performance dramatically in new ways.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Electoral Reform: Right question? Right answer? And who decides?	Huhne, Chris (speaker, male)	Carswell, Douglas (speaker, male)	Keane, John (speaker, male)	MacShane, Dennis (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (Speaker, male)	Richards, Steve (speaker, male; chair)	2009.06.17	RSA, London	At this critical time for UK democracy, the RSA brings together a panel of key players and commentators to respond to the current political crisis and to debate the range of parliamentary, electoral and constitutional reform proposals which are now being considered by politicians, parties and the public. Our panel will focus, in particular, on the issue of electoral reform, and ask: is the growing call for electoral reform the right response, right now?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Why Interfaith?	Armstrong, Karen (speaker, female)	Sackur, Stephen (speaker, male; chair)					2009.06.17	RSA, London	Why is there such emphasis on interfaith initiatives? Is the interfaith project about achieving inter-cultural awareness, respect and mutual understanding, or putting aside religious differences for the sake of shared objectives such as poverty reduction, conflict resolution and community engagement? What can we hope to gain from such dialogues, and are they a necessary response to an increasingly globalized world? What are the mechanisms for cooperation in a pluralistic society, and should we emphasise the similarities and commonalities between various traditions, or do we risk undermining their distinctiveness? Are some religious traditions simply incompatible with others? Are these the natural limitations to interfaith dialogue, and if so, how do we deal with them?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - Aung San Suu Kyi and the struggle for Burma's Freedom	Crabb, Stephen (male, speaker)	Phan, Zoya (speaker, female)	Saing, Khun (speaker, male)	Lewis, Ivan (speaker, male)	Roberts, Anna (speaker, female; chair)		2009.06.18	RSA, London	Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace laureate, symbolises the struggle of Burma's people to be free. She has been detained for over 13 years by the Burmese regime for campaigning for human rights and democracy in Burma. The United Nations has ruled that Aung San Suu Kyi's detention is illegal under international law. As Aung San Suu Kyi approaches her 64th birthday, the RSA brings together a distinguished panel to pay tribute to her lifetime of patriotism, sacrifice and commitment to the cause of freedom and democracy.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
When China Rules the World	Jacques, Martin (speaker, male)	Harding, James (speaker, male; chair)					2009.06.22	RSA, London	For well over 200 years, we have lived in a Western-made world, one where the very notion of being modern is inextricably bound up with being Western. The twenty-first century will be different. The rise of China, India and the Asian tiger economies means that, for the first time, modernity will no longer be exclusively Western. The West will be confronted with the fact that its systems, institutions and values are no longer the only ones on offer. The central player in this new world will be China. Continental in size and mentality, China is a 'civilization-state' whose characteristics, attitudes and values long predate its existence as a nation-state. Although China is clearly influenced by the West, its extraordinary size and history mean that it will remain highly distinct, and as it exercises its rapidly growing power it will change much more than the world's geopolitics. The nation-state as we understand it will no longer be globally dominant, and the Westphalian state system will be transformed; ideas of race will be redrawn. As Martin Jacques will argue, we are moving into an era of contested modernity.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The Value of Higher Education	Lammy, David (speaker, male)	Professor Crossick, Geoffrey (speaker, male)					2009.06.24	RSA, London	Join the Rt Hon David Lammy MP, minister for higher education and intellectual property, at the RSA as he delivers an important speech on the value of higher education. Without universities, our society would be poorer in all senses. Universities are not only drivers of economic growth and hubs of innovation, but also beacons of scholarship and centres of culture. At a time when the recession is causing many people to focus mainly on the economic impact of universities, Higher Education Minister David Lammy will talk about why he also believes in higher learning for its own sake and in the intrinsic value of the liberal arts.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Seeing Myself See: The Ecology of Mind	Lotto, Beau (speaker, female)						2009.06.24	RSA, London	To understand the human mind it is necessary to understand what we actually see when we open our eyes. Colour suggests an answer to this question: we see not the world as it is, but a world that was useful to see in the past. Beau Lotto performs a series of experiments involving the sky, music and bumblebees that show how quickly the brain can learn to see what is useful, and demonstrate that our perception and conception of the world reflects our past physical, social and cultural interactions. These optical and colour experiments illustrate that none of us is an outside observer of nature defined by our essential properties, but is instead defined by our interactions with nature. Join us at the RSA to experience how colour, vision and "seeing ourselves see" can contribute to a richer, more empathetic view of nature and human nature.	There is no audio file available for this event.
RSA Thursday - Have the baby boomers made us go bust?	Greer, Bonnie (speaker, female)	Diski , Jenny (speaker, female)	Lott, Tim (speaker, male)	O'Neill, Brendan (speaker, male)			2009.06.25	RSA, London	Does the baby boomer generation owe us all an apology? The children of joyful post-war reunions are responsible for some of the greatest social advances of the 20th century – campaigning tirelessly for peace, freedom of sexuality, gender equality, and against racism, military bombast and bigotry. But is there a flipside to this liberal revolution? Have the tenets of free love and sexual promiscuity precipitated family breakdown and social malaise? Has the quest for spiritual enlightenment in foreign climes meant that the flowerchildren have flown their way to environmental catastrophe? And has their self-indulgent culture of individualism and excessive consumption directly contributed to this current economic crisis?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA/English Project Debate - English: On the skids. Innit?	Paxman, Jeremy (speaker, male)	Atkins , Anne (speaker, female)	Dent, Susie (speaker, female; chair)				2009.06.29	RSA, London	As a global language of unparalleled influence and vitality, the evolution of English is seemingly unstoppable. But do we need to worry about the encroachment of "text speak"/ split infinitives / sentences ending with prepositions/ dumbing-down/ preservation of the great literary tradition/ kids learning standard English/ politicians speaking it properly etc...? Do we need an authority to govern the process of evolution and keep English in shape? What do we mean by "English"?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Healthy Choices?	Lansley, Andrew (speaker, male)	Dolan, Paul (speaker, male)	Marteau, Theresa (speaker, female)	Dr Seymour, Ben (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)		2009.06.29	RSA, London	Shadow Health Secretary Andrew Lansley MP joins a panel of experts to discuss the relations between behaviour, choice and health outcomes. Much of health policy for the last decade or so has concerned service provision – aiming to raise standards of care, cut waiting lists and encourage efficiency. However, there is a growing realisation that we also need to understand how the users of these services think and behave, if better health outcomes are to be achieved. The background to this is the gap between how highly we say we value our health and our actual behaviour. Can we design policies that help us close this gap? What would this mean for a consumer-led health service? Should individual choice be the driver of change? Or should the state try sometimes to guide behaviour? If so, how? Our expert panel explores the psychology, economics and politics of behaviour and health.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
What is Education For?	Gove, Michael (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.06.30	RSA, London	Michael Gove MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families will outline what purpose the school curriculum should serve and the principles that should inform education reform in the 21st Century.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
Free: The Future of a Radical Price	Anderson, Chris (speaker, male)						2009.06.30	RSA, London	Chris Anderson, the groundbreaking author of the 'Long Tail' visits the RSA to outline a dramatic new change in the way our economy functions. He will explain how old economic certainties are being undermined by a rapid influx of free goods, and how new technologies like the internet have made this possible. Join Chris as he asks: Who are the winners and losers in this new 'free universe'? How will factors like the popular reputation of a product, and the time we have to spend on it affect our purchasing decisions? And will we ever use the terms 'reputation economy' and 'time economy' as freely as we now do the 'money economy'?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Making Progress: Rethinking Enlightenment	Neiman, Susan (speaker, female)						2009.07.01	RSA, London	Distinguished moral philosopher Susan Neiman visits the RSA to ask: how do we talk responsibly about good and evil? Why are irony, detachment and pessimism the favoured modes of supposed sophisticates? How can it be that "moral clarity" has come to be a catchphrase of conservatives while eliciting the knowing sneers of liberals? In her new book Moral Clarity: A Guide for Grown-Up Idealists Susan Neiman shows how the terrain vacated by the contemporary left's aversion toward moralising and morality has been filled by the political right. Moral Clarity is her sustained defence of a set of values that she sees are neglected or threatened. In her RSA lecture Neiman will show how the resources of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment (David Hume, Adam Smith, Jean-Jacques Rousseau and Immanuel Kant) can help to reconstruct a progressive politics. Neiman believes that a progressive political outlook depends on a return to a robust Enlightenment, whose values are not merely the negative ones of tolerance and fairness, but the more substantive demands for happiness, reason, reverence and hope. In her fierce commitment to politics as a moral endeavour,	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - In Search of Civilisation	Armstrong, John (speaker, male)	Warburton, Nigel (speaker, male; chair)					2009.07.02	RSA, London	What exactly is meant by the term 'civilisation', and why do we need it? Join leading philosopher, John Armstrong as he attempts to connect societal forces such as economic liberty and social freedom with collective wisdom, maturity and cultural strength, arguing for a global renaissance.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Facts Are Subversive: Political writing from a decade without a name	Garton Ash, Timothy (speaker, male)	Burns, John (speaker, male)	Roberts, Adam (speaker, male)	Lloyd, John (speaker, male; chair)			2009.07.02	RSA, London	One of Britain's most influential and admired commentators presents his latest volume of dispatches from a troubled world. Timothy Garton Ash witnessed the fall of Milosevic in Serbia, visited Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma, watched the Orange revolution in Ukraine and talked to militant mullahs in Iran. He will discuss these pivotal moments from the past decade, and share his critical reflections on the future of Europe, multiculturalism and terrorism. Against every post-modernist in the world, Timothy Garton Ash maintains that there are facts, and that establishing them is both a political and a moral imperative - and an aesthetic one, too.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Education at the Crossroads	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male)						2009.07.07	RSA, London	For the 13th Specialist Schools and Academies Trust Annual Lecture, Matthew Taylor, chief executive, RSA, describes how, with a general election looming and the latest technological and neuroscientific developments, he feels we are at a genuine crossroads for education and puts forward his ideas on how to promote the debate.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - Vision Matters: Defining Identity	Saperstein, Jeff (speaker, male)	Taylor, Matthew (speaker, male; chair)					2009.07.09	RSA, London	In these tumultuous times regions, organisations, and individuals (for their own life plans) are reassessing how to cope with change. Writer and consultant Jeff Saperstein visits the RSA to show how visionaries can help us see a different way and how we can not only cope, but thrive to create more productive regions, better organisations, and happier, more fulfilled lives.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
The Sustainability Project - How Much More Can Our Planet Take?	Hahlbrock, Klaus (speaker, male)	Kaufmann, Stefan H. E. (speaker, male)	Müller, Harald (speaker, male)	Leggett, Jeremy (speaker, male)	Davis, Tricia Holly (speaker, female; chair)		2009.07.13	RSA, London	For more than thirty years, scientists from various disciplines have warned that the constant increase in world population and exponential world economic growth are seriously threatening the future of our planet - its ecosystems, economies, and the well-being of our children. As we near the end of the first decade of the 21st century, the problems identified in seemingly disparate spheres - climate change, natural resource use, global health and government - are being brought together with a common goal: sustainable development. Join our distinguished panel to assess the changes in lifestyles, production methods and consumption behaviour that will be required to meet the global sustainability challenge. Speakers include: Klaus Hahlbrock, Professor emeritus of Biochemistry, Vice President of the Max Planck Society and author of Feeding the Planet; Stefan H. E. Kaufmann, Professor for Microbiology and Immunology, founding director of the Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin and author of The New Plagues; Harald Müller, former adviser to Kofi Annan, Head of the Peace Research Institute, Frankfurt and author of Building a New World Order and Jeremy Leggett, social entrepreneur, climate-change campaigner, and	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
Do People Need Community Anymore?	Etzioni, Amitai (speaker, male)	Bryne, Liam (speaker, male)	Broome, Steve (speaker, male; chair)				2009.07.14	RSA, London	Modern Britain is characterised by real advances in personal capacity and greater heterogeneity in society. With this backdrop, public services are being delivered as personalised entitlements and people increasingly find connections in networks rather than neighbourhoods. What, therefore, is the role of community in today's society? And does it have to be 'physical' community to count?	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - Mothers and Others	Blaffer Hrdy, Sarah (speaker, female)						2009.07.16	RSA, London	Sarah Blaffer Hrdy comes to the RSA to present a new vision of human evolution and to argue that our capacity to understand, engage and empathise with each other stems from our status as a cooperatively parenting species. In her new book Mothers and Others: the evolutionary origins of mutual understanding Sarah Hrdy explains that the key to this evolution lies in the primatologically unique length of human childhood. If the young were to survive in a world of scarce food, they needed to be cared for, not only by their mothers but also by siblings, aunts, fathers and friends. Out of this complicated and contingent form of childrearing, Sarah Hrdy argues, came the human capacity for understanding others. Mothers and others teach us who will care, and who will not.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
All Consuming	Lawson, Neal (speaker, male)	Hilton, Matthew (speaker, male)	Naish, John (speaker, male)	Ben-Ami, Daniel (speaker, male)	Wan, Joseph (speaker, male)		2009.07.16	RSA, London	As a society, has our fondness for conspicuous consumption left us not only financially bankrupt, but spiritually too? Having spent our way to financial and environmental disaster it now seems imperative to reassess our habit of responding to false 'needs', taking part in useless 'positional arms races', and associating the 'good life' with the gratification of consuming and acquiring. Our culture of abundance has spoiled us into wanting more, more, more, and complex social pressures suggest that opting out will result in social exclusion and pariahdom. But is there a flipside to this seemingly straightforward tale of the evils of greed and excess? Healthy levels of trade and consumption are necessary for a thriving economy, and the subsequent rise of consumer associations emphasise the importance of consuming responsibly, fairly and ethically. Have consumers and consumerism actually operated as a 'third force' in society – liberating, politicising and empowering women and the working classes? Join our panel as they assess the relative perils and merits of our 'all consuming' obsession.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
From 'me' to 'we'	Earls, Mark (speaker, male)	Grist, Matt (speaker, male; chair)					2009.07.21	RSA, London	Mark Earls discusses the emergence of the "social revolution" in marketing management and social policy. Far from being the independent, self-determining rational agent that our Anglo Saxon culture (and our minds) tell us we are, it turns out that humans are much more of a "we"-creature than we'd like to think and that we do what we do largely because of the influence of other people. This insight not only explains much of what we see around us - from the clothes we wear and where we live, to the rise of things like Twitter & Facebook, to the waves of collective grief prompted by Michael Jackson's death - but it also suggests a very different approach to our attempts to change other people's behaviour, be it in business or in the public sector.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Thursday - The Crisis of Islamic Civilisation	Allawi, Ali A. (speaker, male)	Dr Azzam, Maha (speaker, female; chair)					2009.07.23	RSA, London	Is Islam's great civilisation irrevocably lost? What does its decline mean for Muslims and the world? Can Islamic civilisation be revived in the face of globalisation? Should it be revived? Former cabinet minister in post-invasion Iraq, Ali A. Allawi visits the RSA to discuss his new book The Crisis of Islamic Civilisation (Yale University Press, 2009) and to argue that the best hope for the world's Muslims is a rejuvenated Islamic civilisation – one that unites the inner world of Islamic spirituality with a public outer world that is also genuinely Islamic.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Screens - On Tour with the Queen	Kwei-Armah, Kwame (speaker, male)	King, Oona (speaker, female; chair)					2009.07.27	RSA, London	In 1953 the Queen set off on a 6-month world tour. This was a royal charm offensive to persuade countries seeking their independence from the Empire that Britain was worth staying attached to, in the form of the Commonwealth. Over half a century later, actor and playwright Kwame Kwei-Armah retraces her journey. Through his encounters he finds out what the tour meant then and now. It's the story of how the end of the Empire changed the colonies and how the loss of the colonies changed Britain.	There is no audio file available for this event.
Diversity in the Media: A personal perspective	Guru-Murthy, Krishnan (speaker, male)	Younge, Pat (speaker, male)	King, Oona (speaker, female)				2009.07.27	RSA, London	A TV Collective event introduced by Oona King, Channel 4 Head of Diversity. Why is diversity important? Does television reflect the modern British experience?	There is no audio file available for this event.

Event Title	Speaker 1	Speaker 2	Speaker 3	Speaker 4	Speaker 5	Speaker 6	Event date	Event place	Event Description	Audio Available?
RSA Thursday - The Renewal of St Martin-in-the-Fields: a case study in social space making	Parry, Eric (speaker, male)	Campbell, Emily (speaker, female; chair)					2009.07.30	RSA, London	Renowned architect and Royal Academician Eric Parry visits the RSA to discuss the recently completed redevelopment of St Martin-in-the-Fields. The project has created a sequence of interconnected public spaces both above and below ground as well as a wide range of amenities for a diverse range of users, including the homeless, St Martin's core congregation, the local Chinese community and state of the art facilities for professional musicians. This highly complex scheme creates a synergy between the baroque church and the contemporary additions, facilitates the flow of access to and from Trafalgar Square and exemplifies the practice's considered approach to place-making within a culturally and historically sensitive context.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
David Cameron and Nassim Taleb in conversation at the RSA	Cameron, David (speaker, male)	Taleb, Nassim (speaker, male)	Finkelstein, Danny (speaker, male; chair)				2009.08.18	RSA, London	Nassim Taleb is the best-selling author of Fooled By Randomness and The Black Swan: The Impact of the Highly Improbable. So called 'Black Swan Events' are climactic, random and hard-to-predict events that have been entirely unexpected, and often hitherto perceived to be impossible. At this breakfast event chaired by Danny Finkelstein, Comment Editor of the Times, Nassim Taleb explains the relevance of his ideas to the economic crisis, and argue for measures to create a more 'Black Swan-robust society. David Cameron will respond and take part in a discussion with the audience.	Yes. Please contact the British Library's Drama and Literature Recordings section. Email: drama@bl.uk Telephone: (0)20 7412 7617
RSA Event at the Festival of Politics: Climate for Change – From Economic Crash to Eco Recovery?	Stern, Nicholas (speaker, male)	Murray, Leo (speaker, male)	Price, Andrew (speaker, male)	Macdonald, Louise (speaker, female; chair)			2009.08.20	Edinburgh	Not only has the recent collapse in the global economy devastated peoples lives, it appears to have pushed the ever-increasing threat of climate change from people's minds. Yet could the economic crisis present an opportunity to build a sustainable future? Join Nicholas Stern – renowned author of The Stern Review and A Blueprint for a Safer Planet, Leo Murray – Media Producer of The Age of Stupid, and Andrew Price, author of Slow-tech: Manifesto for an Over-wound World, as they discuss how our economically destructive past could become an environmentally sustainable future.	There is no audio file available for this event.
The RSA Event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival	Coupland, Douglas (speaker, male)						2009.08.30	Edinburgh	Witty, clever and entertaining, Douglas Coupland's international bestselling novels walk the tightrope between optimism and paranoia. Generation A mirrors his debut Generation X, this time with a near-future world where bees are thought extinct, until five people in different countries are stung on the same day. A hugely original contemporary voice.	There is no audio file available for this event.