After the success of LSE’s inaugural Literary Weekend in February 2009, we are delighted to be holding a second Literary Festival at LSE from Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 February 2010.

Half a century after C P Snow’s two cultures, the arts and sciences remain distinct domains. While the social sciences might have built bridges, they each continue to occupy a space of their own. This festival aims to push those boundaries, exploring the edges of social science and asking what can be learnt in the borderlands between social science, natural science and the humanities about mind, self and society.

This year’s Festival programme includes talks and discussions with well-known authors and academics on topics ranging from hypochondria to robots; a series of creative writing workshops; an afternoon of events for children; and an art performance of the Declaration of Human Rights. Further details on all events, as well as updates to the programme, can be found at lse.ac.uk/spaceforthought.

Louise Gaskell, Literary Festival Organiser

Look out for other events taking place at LSE which might be of interest

Ticket Information

All events in the Literary Festival programme are free and open to all, but a ticket is required.

Tickets will be available to request on the LSE website, lse.ac.uk/events, from Monday 25 January 2010.

Catering

Café 54 will be open throughout the Literary Festival, located on the ground floor of the New Academic Building.

‘Grab-n-go’ or eat-in – great sandwiches, hot and cold wraps, soup, pasta, fresh baked pastries and cookies, coffees, and cold drinks.

Book sales

Waterstone’s will be selling books throughout the Literary Festival, and many authors will be signing copies after the event.
LSE Library will be celebrating this year’s Literary Festival too:

Pick up a copy of our *More than Stories* reading list, which takes a number of well-known works of literature as starting points, and shows how they can be used alongside archives, pamphlets, newspapers, electronic resources and other research materials, as sources of evidence and ideas about society.

Look out for our display of historic photographs of LSE, chosen along a literary theme, and *Theatre of Action*, a slideshow of images from our gay liberationist, pacifist and other collections showing how activists used drama to campaign for change.

Or view, comment and contribute online: visit lse.ac.uk/library
Thursday 11 February

5-6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building

LSE Student Recruitment Creative Writing prize-giving event, with the Royal Society of Literature

The Future of Teen Fiction

Speakers: Rebecca Clee, Patrick Ness, Alex Scarrow, Mark Walden

Chair: Peter Florence

The culmination of LSE’s second creative writing competition for London state schools, this panel of award-winning and innovative authors, alongside one teenager with her finger on the pulse of young-adult writing, will be discussing, and asking you in the audience, what’s in store for teen fiction?

Rebecca Clee is an editor of Spinebreakers, the site for book-loving teenagers by book-loving teenagers. Patrick Ness’ first book for teenagers, The Knife of Never Letting Go, won the 2008 Booktrust Teenage Prize and the Guardian Children’s Fiction Prize. The sequel The Ask and the Answer was published in 2009, with the final book in the trilogy Monsters of Men due to be published in 2010. Alex Scarrow used to be a rock guitarist, then he became a graphic artist, then he decided to be a computer games designer. Finally, he grew up and became an author. He has written a number of successful adult thrillers, but it’s young adult fiction and his first novel for that audience, TimeRiders, that have allowed him to really have fun with the ideas and concepts he was playing around with when designing games. Mark Walden spent ten years working as a video games designer and producer. He is author of the popular H.I.V.E series, a comedy-thriller set in an elite school where children are trained to be supervillains.

This event is supported by the LSE Centennial Fund.
How Would a Robot Read a Novel?

Speakers: Dr Kavita Abraham, Dr Jon Adams, Dr Robert Hudson

Chair: Mark Lawson

Never judge a book by its cover? Don’t be ridiculous. We can’t help judging books before we read them – from where they appear in a shop, their covers, their heft or subject matter, from the praise or criticism they receive. Of course, all human readings are subjective – but is there another way? Would an objective reading – a robotic analysis with no preconceptions, limited to just what was on the page – be preferable? Is it even possible? And what questions might a ‘robot reader’ help us answer?

Researchers at LSE Methodology Institute used the text mining programme Alceste to analyse Robert Hudson’s novel The Kilburn Social Club, and then invited Hudson to look at the results. What did the robot teach the writer about his own work? What answer could it provide to the question, ‘what’s the book about?’ Might such analyses provide points of contact – be they meetings or clashings of minds – between social science interpretations of texts and the world of literary criticism? In the gap between the robot’s reading and our own, might we learn something substantive about how novels differ from other types of writing?

Dr Kavita Abraham is an expert in qualitative research methodologies. Dr Jon Adams is a critic of literary criticism. Dr Robert Hudson is an academic historian-turned novelist. Mark Lawson is a journalist, broadcaster and author.

This event will be followed by a complimentary drinks reception.

Info

For updates on the programme, and full ticket information see lse.ac.uk/spaceforthought

Member of the press? Request a press seat, email pressoffice@lse.ac.uk
The early twentieth century imagist poets took a radical new look at their daily life and urban surroundings, especially, producing very short poems built on a single, vivid image.

LSE students and staff will be invited to submit online entries of their own short poems on the theme of change in the contemporary city. Entries will be broadcast on puLSE during January and February as well as on announcement screens across campus, the winners being announced at the open mic event, where they will also be performed as part of a multi-media event.

The entries should be submitted by the 29th of January to languages@lse.ac.uk with the subject marked CITY.

The event with complimentary drinks is hosted by the LSE Language Centre, Student Poetry Society and the MUSE Journal.

In 1920s London, an émigré American went from working for a bank in the City to become the leading poet of his age. Despite the best efforts of other great writers of the day (Ezra Pound and Virginia Woolf) to ‘extricate’ him, T S Eliot relinquished his ‘day job’ in finance only with reluctance, and the City setting remains central to his most famous poem The Waste Land. It is perhaps therefore especially fitting that students in a college such as LSE, with such close links to the world of finance, should present Eliot’s short theatre piece from the same period Sweeney Agonistes.

A drinks reception and discussion with economist and author Lord Desai will precede the performance by LSE students of Sweeney Agonistes.

These events are free and open to all, with no ticket required. Entry is on a first come, first served basis. For more information contact Dr Olga Sobolev (o.sobolev@lse.ac.uk) or Dr Angus Wrenn (a.j.wrenn@lse.ac.uk)
Join the
The Royal Society of Literature

FORTHCOMING HIGHLIGHTS FOR MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Seamus Heaney on a life in poetry
David Hare on drama versus documentary
Hilary Mantel’s master class on the art of historical fiction

For full information about the benefits of membership and how to join:
Telephone 0207 845 4677
Email rachel@rslit.org
Website www.rslit.org
Friday 12 February

**12.30-2pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building**
Institute of Social Psychology and Department of Anthropology panel discussion

**The Imagined Mind**

Speakers: **Dr Mukulika Banerjee**, **William Fiennes**, **Dr Sandra Jovchelovtich**, **Susie Orbach**
Chair: **Professor Charles Stafford**

Can there be a space for connecting what is imagined and what is real in the operations of the human mind? Is there an interface between the world as known through the knowledge of science and the world as known through the imagined landscapes of fiction?

This panel will discuss the role of the imagination and memory in the making of mind, exploring how literature and the arts have added depth and breadth to our understanding of minds, cultures and societies.

**Dr Mukulika Banerjee** is a reader in Social Anthropology at LSE, specialising in the ethnographic study of democracy. **William Fiennes** is the bestselling author of *The Snow Geese* and *The Music Room*, and Director of the charity First Story, which supports creativity and literacy in challenging secondary schools. **Dr Sandra Jovchelovitch** is Director of the MSc in Social and Cultural Psychology at LSE. **Susie Orbach** is a psychoanalyst and author of *Bodies* and *Fat is a Feminist Issue*.

**12.30-2pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building**
Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method and Forum for European Philosophy panel discussion

**Dance, Text, and Translation: Creating a Dialogue**

Speakers: **Professor Helen Thomas**, **Jasmin Vardimon**
Chair: **Professor Luc Bovens**

Dance is generally concerned with non-verbal bodily communication, while literature is text-based and disembodied. This session aims to create dialogue between a dance practitioner and a dance researcher about the use of textual sources in dance, dance notation and dance as a language of expression.

**Jasmin Vardimon** is Artistic Director of the Jasmin Vardimon Dance Company, which uses theatre, text and technologies to produce innovative and award-winning choreographies. **Helen Thomas** is
Professor and Research Director at the London College of Fashion. Her work focuses on the sociology of dance and culture. She is the author of several books including *Dance, Modernity and Culture* (1995) and *The Body, Dance and Cultural Theory* (2004).

5-6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building
DEMONS Panel Discussion

**At the Margins – are hard times good times for literature?**

Speakers: **John Lanchester**, **Adrian Wooldridge**

The UK has been buffeted by financial crises and an economic collapse which have seen public debt soar and corporate budgets constrict. The publishing industry has arguably seen its worst financial year in decades, with flagging book sales and dwindling literature coverage in the national press. How will literature will fare in the current climate, and in the years to come? Will major publishers’ dwindling revenues mean fewer – and less varied and ambitious – books on the market? Or is this a golden age for hard-edged, gritty recession literature, and incisive coverage of current social and political issues?

Join us as **John Lanchester**, author of *Whoops!* on the financial crisis, and **Adrian Wooldridge**, co-author of *The Company* and Management Editor for *The Economist*, debate the impact of the recession on literature.

6-7.30pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building
Forum for European Philosophy panel discussion

**Literature and the Academic: Literature as a resource for other disciplines**

Speakers: **Richard Bronk**, **Professor Margot Finn**, **Dr Neil Vickers**

Chair: **Professor Simon Blackburn**

The session examines how the reading of literature can expand the analytical imagination, provide alternative metaphors and supply vital empirical evidence. Three academics from very different disciplines discuss ways in which literature can be invaluable to the broader research community:

**Richard Bronk** is Visiting Fellow at the European Institute, LSE and author of *The Romantic Economist – Imagination in Economics* (CUP 2009).

**Margot Finn** is Professor of History at the University of Warwick and author of *The Character of Credit: Personal Debt in English Culture* (CUP 2003). **Neil Vickers** is Senior Lecturer in Literature and Medicine, Kings College, London and author of *Coleridge and the Doctors* (OUP 2004).

**Simon Blackburn** is Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University.
7-8.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building
DESTIN, Crisis States and Department of Social Policy panel discussion

The Fiction of Development?

Speakers: Giles Foden, Professor David Lewis, Jack Mpanje, Sunny Singh
Chair: Dr Dennis Rodgers

Do we learn more about global poverty issues and the worlds of international development agencies from works of popular fiction such as Rohinton Mistry’s A Fine Balance or Helen Fielding’s Cause Celeb than we do from official reports and academic research? A recently-published paper written by David Lewis, Dennis Rodgers and Michael Woolcock suggests that fiction is an important and sometimes under-recognised source of knowledge about ‘development’ issues that may offer useful and different insights compared to more standard forms of research publication and policy reports.

Giles Foden is award-winning author of The Last King of Scotland. David Lewis is Professor of Social Policy and Development at LSE. Jack Mpanje is a Malawian poet and teacher at the School of English, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Sunny Singh is an Indian writer, journalist and teacher at London Metropolitan University.

This event will be followed by a complimentary drinks reception

11 January –12 February 2010, The Atrium Gallery, Old Building
LSE Arts Exhibition

The Golden Road by Andrew Jackson

The Golden Road is a major new commission by Birmingham-based photographer Andrew Jackson, which takes as its starting point the perennial and often contentious issue of immigration. In 2004, the European Union extended its membership to include a number of former Eastern bloc countries. Since this time, in the region of 1 million migrants are estimated to have come to Britain.

The Golden Road centres on the life of one such person, known as M who, without being able to speak English, travelled alone, from Bratislava, Slovakia, to England to find work and to start a new life. Over the past two years, Jackson has documented aspects of M’s life at close quarters, constructing through photographs, written observations and film an intimate but at times bleak portrait of her attempts to build a life for herself in England. Jackson has chosen to focus on, in detail, elements of M’s private and public domain. Though devoid of people and often possessing an almost mundane air, Jackson’s images are instantly familiar, flitting between domestic settings and public spaces.
Saturday 13 February

10.30am-12pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building
POLIS panel discussion
War Stories: How to bring the battle to the book

Speakers: Janine di Giovanni, Sam Kiley, Ros Wynne-Jones

A discussion of war journalism in its historical context. How the great correspondents of the past managed to tell the world about conflicts around the globe. And how in the digital age, governments and the military seek to prevent free reporting of war. Can we ever really report objectively and openly on war?

Janine di Giovanni is an award-winning journalist who has been covering global conflict since the 1980s. She is author of The Place at the End of the World: Essays from the Edge. Award-winning journalist Sam Kiley has covered wars and insurgencies in more than thirty countries over the last twenty years, and is author of Desperate Glory: Six Months in Helmand with 16th Air Assault Brigade. Ros Wynne-Jones is an award-winning journalist and author, and senior feature writer for the Daily Mirror. Her novel Something is Going to Fall Like Rain, about south Sudan, is published by Reportage Press.

11am-12.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building
Law Department panel discussion
Jekyll & Hyde: Law, Science, Psychology

Speakers: Professor Mary Evans, Professor Nicola Lacey, Robert Mighall, Professor Juliet Mitchell

Robert Louis Stevenson’s Jekyll and Hyde develops a rich intersection between literary fiction, legal norms and the scientific imagination. This panel brings together legal academics, psychoanalytical theorists and specialists in 19th century literature to discuss the historical and cultural significance of themes in the novel.

Mary Evans is a Visiting Professor in Sociology and Gender at LSE, and author of The Imagination of Evil. Nicola Lacey is Professor of Criminal Law and Legal Theory at LSE, and author of Women, crime, and character: from Moll Flanders to Tess of the d’Urbervilles. Robert Mighall is the author of A Geography of Victorian Gothic Fiction, and has introduced and edited the Penguin Classics edition of The Strange Case of Doctor Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Juliet Mitchell is a British Psychoanalyst and socialist feminist, Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies at Cambridge University.
Saturday 13 February, 1-2pm, Atrium, New Academic Building
Centre for the Study of Human Rights and LSE Arts event

Anniversary – an act of memory
Monica Ross

December 10 1948 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted and proclaimed The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The Assembly called on all Member States to publicise the text causing it to be displayed, disseminated, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions.

This event is one of a sequence, by artist Monica Ross, which continues the dialogue around the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, celebrating and honouring the human rights movement’s founding principles after the Declaration’s 60th anniversary last year.

This is your chance to join Monica by participating in a collective recitation, from memory, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. You choose an article/s that means something to you, in the language of your choice, memorise it and recite it at LSE with Monica and others. Or, attend to witness others attempt to embed the Declaration in consciousness.

To find out more visit lse.ac.uk/humanrights

If you wish to be involved in the event contact arts.recital@lse.ac.uk

60 Recitations from Individual and Collective Memory of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
12.30-2pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building

*The London Magazine* discussion

**Literature and the Sciences: Where do they meet?**

Speakers: Michael Blackburn, Mario Petrucci, Richard Tyrone-Jones.

Three poets discuss the interrelationship between art and literature and the social sciences. What are the links between these seemingly polarised disciplines? Does art have any concrete influence on the social and political sciences?

*The London Magazine* is the UK’s oldest and most celebrated arts and literary publication.

Michael Blackburn is a poet and publisher. Poetry collections include *The Prophecy of Christos* and *The Ascending Boy*. Mario Petrucci is a multi-award-winning poet, he launches *i tulips*, his extraordinary and profoundly moving hybrid of Anglo-American modernism, in March 2010 (Enitharmon). A wide-ranging and versatile poet, writer, host, workshop leader and literary event organiser, Richard Tyrone Jones is Director of ‘Utter!’ spoken word events, and his first book *Germline* tackles issues of genetics and fertility.

1-2.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building

LSE Cities Programme discussion

**Reading London**

Speakers: Professor Rosemary Ashton, Dan Cruickshank, Leo Hollis, Hans Ulrich Obrist

Chair: Dr Fran Tonkiss

How do we attempt to understand the sprawling ‘modern Babylon’ that is London, with its layers of social, political and cultural history? Can art, architecture and literature help us to ‘read’ this complex city?

2.30-4pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building

The Arts of Illness

Speakers: Dr Jane Darcy, Brian Dillon, Sally O’Reilly

Chair: Dr Jenn Tarr

Consciousness of our own mortality is at the heart of the human experience, and has long fascinated writers and artists, inspiring quite an obsession with the body and its well-being. This panel will examine the relationship between creativity, illness and the imagination.

Dr Jane Darcy has recently completed a PhD on melancholy in biographical writing in the 18th and 19th centuries. She is a British Academy Post-Doctoral Fellow, working on theories of literary biography in the nineteenth century. Brian Dillon is author of Tormented Hope: Nine Hypochondriac Lives (Penguin, 2009), which was shortlisted for the Wellcome Trust Book Prize. His novella, Sanctuary, will be published by Sternberg Press in 2010. Sally O’Reilly is a writer who contributes regularly to art and culture magazines, has written for numerous galleries internationally and is currently working on a series of documentaries that interrogate underlying abstract themes of cultural production and the history of ideas. Her latest book The Body in Contemporary Art is published by Thames & Hudson.

3-4.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building

Sociology as Literature

Speaker: Professor Richard Sennett

Richard Sennett’s award winning Sociology of Literature explores the role of narrative in social research and in writing sociology.

Professor Richard Sennett trained at the University of Chicago and at Harvard University, receiving his PhD in 1969. He then moved to New York where, in the 1970s he founded, with Susan Sontag and Joseph Brodsky, The New York Institute for the Humanities at New York University. In the 1980s he served as an advisor to UNESCO and as president of the American Council on Work; he also taught occasionally at Harvard. He is currently academic governor and Professor of Sociology at LSE, and divides his time between LSE and New York University. In addition to these academic homes, he maintains informal connections to MIT and to Trinity College, Cambridge University.
Saturday 13 February, Alumni Theatre, New Academic Building

10-11am

How to write a novel – an introduction for beginners with Justine Mann

Does the task of writing a novel both excite and daunt you? Using the political novel as an example, this workshop will examine how to progress from initial ideas to a successful draft. Participants should emerge with an understanding of the task that lies ahead and a greater sense of what is required in terms of structure, characterisation and plot.

Justine Mann’s short stories have been published in a succession of new writing anthologies. She was awarded second prize in the 2007 Fish International Short Story competition and was shortlisted for the 2008 Bridport Short Story Prize. Justine has an MA in Creative Writing from the University of East Anglia and tutors in creative writing for the Open University.

11am-12pm

Researching and Writing a Political Novel, a Q&A with Christie Watson

Christie’s forthcoming novel is set against the backdrop of the Nigerian oil industry. This session will focus on some of the challenges encountered when creating a fictional narrative from a contemporary political issue. She will also read from her novel and offer advice on finding a literary agent.

Christie Watson won the Malcolm Bradbury Bursary for her MA in Creative Writing at UEA. Her short fiction has appeared in many journals, including Wasafiri. Her first novel Tiny Sunbirds, Far Away will be published January 2011.

12-1pm

A Q&A Session with Patrick Mercer

Patrick Mercer was a Regular Army officer who saw service in many crisis ridden areas including Northern Ireland, Uganda, Belize and the Balkans. In an attempt to broaden his portfolio of international disasters, he then spent some time as the BBC Radio 4 Today Programme’s Defence Correspondent, broadcasting from Kosovo, East Timor and Eritrea. Having been elected in 2001, he was Shadow Minister for Homeland Security from 2003-7. He now acts as Chairman of the Commons Counter-Terrorism Committee. Mercer has recently published his first novel, To Do And Die, based on the real-life story of Anthony Morgan, who fought in the Crimean War.
**4.30-6pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building**

**So Much for That:**

*on illness, death and money*

**Speaker:** Lionel Shriver

Lionel Shriver will be discussing and reading from her new novel *So Much for That* on the cusp of release in March. Described in HarperCollins’s spring catalogue as ‘about illness, death, and money’, Shriver’s latest explores four different scenarios with a medical aspect, in a kind of literary ‘ER’. The book examines the catastrophic personal fall-out of America’s dysfunctional health-care system, while also raising tough questions that all Western countries are having to wrestle with – the most signal among them: how much money is one life worth?

**Lionel Shriver** is best known for the international bestsellers *The Post-Birthday World* (2007) and *We Need to Talk About Kevin*, the 2005 Orange Prize winner that has now sold over a million copies worldwide. Her work has been translated into 25 different languages. She is a widely published journalist, appearing regularly in the *Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Economist*, and the *Wall Street Journal*, among many other publications. Her ninth novel, *So Much for That*, will be released in March.

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**5-6.30pm, Sheikh Zayed Theatre, New Academic Building**

**LSESU Drama Society Event**

**Theatre of Action?**

**Speakers:** John Caird, Matt Charman

Theatre has a rich tradition of raising political issues, as evidenced in LSE founder George Bernard Shaw’s work. A discussion between a playwright and director on whether contemporary drama still aims to challenge audiences will be followed by a performance of extracts from ‘reactionary’ drama by the LSESU Drama Society.

**John Caird** is a director and writer, working in theatre, opera and musical theatre. He is an Honorary Associate Director of the RSC. His productions of *Les Misérables* and *Nicholas Nickleby*, both with Trevor Nunn, have won numerous awards around the world. Recent published work includes a new version of John Gay’s *Beggar’s Opera* with the composer Ilona Sekacz, *Children of Eden* with composer Stephen Schwartz, and a musical adaptation of Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* with the composer Paul Gordon. His new book *Theatre Craft: A Director’s Practical Companion from A-Z* will be published in March 2010. **Matt Charman** is an award-winning playwright. His first play *A Night at the Dogs*, won the Verity Bargate Award and was performed at the Soho Theatre in 2005. His second, *The Five Wives of Maurice Pinder*, premiered at the Cottesloe, National Theatre in 2007. *The Observer* directed by Richard Eyre followed in 2009, also at the Cottesloe. Matt was Pearson Writer in Residence at the National Theatre through 2008. He is a recipient of a Peggy Ramsay Award and a winner of the Catherine Johnson Prize.

This event will be accompanied by an online exhibition of historic photographs from the LSE Library’s gay liberationist, pacifist and other collections, showing how activists used drama to campaign for change. [lse.ac.uk/library](http://lse.ac.uk/library).
6.30-8pm, Wolfson Theatre, New Academic Building
Sustainability and Forum for European Philosophy panel discussion

**Animating a Myth for our times: The Lawsuit of the Animals against Humanity**

Story teller: **Alia Al Zougbi**

Speakers: **Zeina Frangie-Eyres**, **Dr Simon Glendinning**, **Professor Marina Warner**, **Dr Mark Wright**

Chair: **Isabel Carlisle**

An event that combines a story-telling of the 1,000-year-old eco-fable *The Animals’ Lawsuit against Humanity* with a panel discussion on the story’s historical and literary origins; current biodiversity in the midst of species extinction; the philosophical relationship between humans and animals; and the need for a myth for our times.

**Zeina Frangie-Eyres**, a Lecturer at Leeds University in Culture and Society in the Middle East, is an expert on the story of The Animals’ Lawsuit. **Marina Warner** is the author of *From the Beast to the Blonde: On Fairy Tales and Their Tellers*, and *No Go the Bogeyman: On Scaring, Lulling, and Making Mock*. She is currently a Professor at the University of Essex. **Dr Simon Glendinning** is a Reader in European Philosophy and Director of the Forum for European Philosophy at LSE. **Dr Mark Wright** is the Conservation Science Advisor for WWF-UK following a long career starting as an insect ecologist. **Isabel Carlisle** is the Director of the Animals Lawsuit Project which develops educational programmes to raise awareness of the need for biodiversity, sustainable living and protection of the environment.
Speaking of Love

Speakers: AS Byatt, Ben Okri, Helen Simpson, Colin Thubron
Chair: Anne Chisholm

Four very different writers consider four very different aspects of love: love as enchantment, and love as madness; passion in youth, and compassion in age. They read their favourite passages on love both from their own work, and from the work of others, and, on Valentine’s eve, discuss Shakespeare’s notion that ‘The lunatic, the lover and the poet are of imagination all compact’.

A S Byatt is renowned internationally for her novels and short stories, which include the Booker Prize-winning Possession, and most recently The Children’s Book. Ben Okri is a world-famous novelist and poet, author of Booker-prize winning The Famished Road and most recently Tales of Freedom. Helen Simpson is an award-winning short story writer, her collections include Constitutional and the forthcoming Geography Boy. Colin Thubron is an award-winning travel writer and novelist, his books include The Lost Heart of Asia, In Siberia and Shadow of the Silk Road.

This event will be followed by a complimentary closing reception, featuring the LSE Jazz Band.
Saturday 13 February, 1st and 2nd Floor, New Academic Building

2.30-3.30pm and 4.30-5.30pm, ages 5-11

The Animals’ Lawsuit Project

The workshop brings to life a version for children of the 1,000-year-old eco-fable ‘The Animals’ Lawsuit against Humanity’. The story involves an enchanted island, a shipwreck, living species of all kinds (who have not encountered humans before), the King of the Spirits (or Djinn) and a court case that takes humans to task for stepping too far outside their ecological niche and not realising that all life is interconnected.

Participating children will be involved in an imaginative and interactive storytelling performance, whereby they become the voice of the animals. In preparation for this, children will participate in fun and creative drama activities, finding their animal’s sound and physicality. Children will also be given a platform to consider and vocalize their animal’s case against the humans in court.

An Afternoon with Richard Hamilton

3-3.45pm, for 5+

Pirate Pranks

Find out about real pirates and fictional pirates, hear stories of dreadful villany on the high seas and of the mean and rotten pirates who find a baby and decide to become parents…

Richard Hamilton is author of Violet and the Mean and Rotten Pirates

4-4.30pm, for 3+

Picnicking Animals to Revolutionary Toddlers

Find out how picture books are made and get a sneak preview of Richard Hamilton’s new book out in July 2010 – for kids who need help persuading their parents to get a pet!

Richard Hamilton is author of If I were You – (shortlisted for the Booktrust early years award 2009), Polly’s Picnic and Let’s take over the Nursery.
LSE aims to ensure that people have equal access to these public events. The vast majority of venues are wheelchair accessible but occasionally some rooms are not, and these will be indicated.

Main theatres also offer infrared hearing systems for people with hearing difficulties. Please call or email the Events office in advance for more details about these events@lse.ac.uk or call 020 7955 6043.

**How to get there**

**Underground**
Holborn (Central/Piccadilly)
Temple (District/Circle)

**Buses**
Buses that stop on or near the Aldwych are numbers: 1, 4, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 23, 26, 59, 68, x68, 76, 87, 91, 139, 168, 171, 172, 176, 188, 243, 341 and 521

**Parking**
NCP, Parker St (off Drury Lane)
WC2

Other than parking meters on Portugal Street, Sardinia Street, Sheffield Street and Lincoln’s Inn Fields there is no parking available near the School.

The London School of Economics and Political Science, Houghton Street London, WC2A 2AE

**Link to maps**
lse.ac.uk/mapsAndDirections/