

Most Recent Manchester Salon Discussions

The wide range of social, political and cultural topics covered this year are listed below. Any requests for subjects to be dealt with in future are welcomed, so please pass on your ideas.

September Crafts and gardening: how radical?

Kate Day, Professor George McKay, Barbara Hastings-Asatourian and Rob Lyons discussed the impact crafts and gardening are having in society.

September Creative writing and teenagers

Melvin Burgess introduced a discussion on researching and writing of gritty novels for teenagers, as his new novel 'Kill All Enemies' was published.

July Feminists and SlutWalk

Nina Powell and Anna Percy introduced a discussion on whether women are empowered by reclaiming words like slut.

June Valuing the arts in an age of austerity

Angus Kennedy, Dr Kim Wiltshire and John Summers discussed how the arts sector can ensure excellence in the midst of dramatic budget cuts.

June Struggle for democracy in the Middle East

Karl Sharro introduced this discussion on recent developments, asking whether the Arab movements can survive western intervention?

May Talking therapies: good for people?

Professor Dennis Hayes and Dr Kenneth McLaughlin challenged the Con-Dem government's campaign to broaden access to talking therapies.

April From tribal to identity politics

Kevin Bean and Chris Gilligan challenged the rise in identity politics with a focus on Northern Ireland.

Get involved in discussing social and political trends with

The Manchester Salon



Join our Facebook group to continue discussion and receive calendar event invitations to events at www.manchestersalon.org.uk/facebook



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Receive updates and comments by following [@manchestersalon](https://twitter.com/manchestersalon) or visit the Twitter page at www.manchestersalon.org.uk/twitter

Comment on current affairs and life around Manchester

Get involved in discussion and display your analytical and writing skills through the current affairs forum on the first Tuesday of each month. Or write for the reviews section on aspects of life in and around Manchester, including theatre, film, music, books, food or lifestyle issues - see www.manchestersalon.org.uk/reviews.html for full details.

Join the mailing list

To receive advance notice invitations and RSVP reminders a couple of days before discussions, join the mailing list at www.manchestersalon.org.uk/contact-the-salon.html or Email Simon Belt, the salon coordinator, at events@manchestersalon.org.uk.

Leaflet design by **KARL SINFIELD**,
content and production by **SIMPLY BETTER IT**

The Manchester Salon is a public discussion forum, meeting most months to engage and debate ideas relating to contemporary social, political and cultural life.

The Manchester Salon

Inspired by the quality of discussions organised by the Institute of Ideas through its annual Battle of Ideas festival (www.battleofideas.org.uk) and the Debating Matters Competition (www.debatingmatters.com), with some of the spirit of salons from the enlightenment period, critical enquiry is at the core of the **Manchester Salon**.

The aim is to capture the essence and nuances of the intellectual and moral problems facing society and raised in current affairs, debating possible solutions. With as many views as there are participants, discussions are often ongoing and carry on more informally in the bar afterwards.



"Reading from Molière" by Jean-François de Troy

www.manchestersalon.org.uk

Forthcoming Discussions

Wednesday 28 September 2011

'I feel your pain: do humans and animals suffer similarly?'

Dr Stuart Derbyshire and Professor Anthony Jones will try and untangle the uniqueness and commonality of pain and suffering for humans and animals.

Venue and Time: International Anthony Burgess Foundation, M1 5BY. Please arrive by 5:45pm for a prompt 6:00pm start, expected to finish just after 7:30pm. **Tickets are free** but space is limited as a joint event with **Cafe Scientifique** and **Manchester Science Festival**, need to be booked in advance via the website. Donations to cover costs are welcomed using the PayPal Donate button on the Salon website.

Here's a couple of **Salon / Battle of Ideas satellite** events, which are also a part of the **Manchester Science Festival**:

Monday 24 October 2011

'Fukushima fallout'

Dr John Roberts, Dame Sue Ion and Rob Lyons will introduce a discussion about where the fallout from Fukushima leaves the future of nuclear energy.

Tuesday 25 October 2011

'Artificial Intelligence, bionics and consciousness'

Professor Kevin Warwick, Dr Kathleen Richardson and Professor Ray Tallis will introduce a discussion on AI and consciousness.

Venue and Time: The John Rylands Library, Deansgate, M3 3EH.

Please arrive by 6:15pm for a prompt 6:30pm start, expected to finish at 8:00pm. **Tickets are free** but space is limited so need to be booked in advance via the website. Donations to cover costs are welcomed using the PayPal Donate button on the Salon website or on the night.



The 2010 Salon / Battle of Ideas satellite / Manchester Science Festival discussion on transport at Blackwell Bookshop

Discussion format and organisation

Like the subjects tackled by the Salon, the day of the week, venue and start times can vary from month to month.

Please make a note of the start times and venues in your diary for those discussions you don't want to miss, and as discussions start on time, please arrive early.

Room size and layout varies depending on the venue and numbers in attendance. The style of debate is open, and we encourage contributions from everyone, allowing issues to be engaged by attendees and speakers alike.

Discussions usually start with introductions from the

speakers followed by some challenging questions from the chair. The speakers' comments are then duly opened up to critical analysis, and attendees are invited to add their own comments for consideration by all.

There's no dress code, age limits or party lines to adhere to, and although you're welcome to come along and just listen to the arguments, your opinions are preferred and your engagement will be encouraged.

To cover speakers' travel costs and venue hire, discussions usually cost £5 per person but are occasionally free when sponsored. Donations and sponsorship towards Salon costs are more than welcome.