



Mensa at Cambridge 2011

21-25 July

Sidney Sussex College

The theme for this year's conference is

'Population'

This controversial event will take place in the grounds of the very prestigious Sidney Sussex College in the heart of Cambridge. Join us for with our line-up of top speakers.

Organisers

Gillian Kaile and Jerry Monk

Speakers

Chris Leek, Simon Baron-Cohen Prof., John Stein, Susannah Mayhew Ph.D., Catherine Budgett-Meakin, Fred Pearce, Roger Martin, Robin J. Wilson, Sir Crispin Tickell, Joanna Delaforce, and Gregory Butcher.



Chris Leek - A Director of British Mensa, Chris has previously been the Chairman of International Mensa and was Chairman of British Mensa for eight years. Chris studied Zoology at Aberystwyth, specialising in Marine Biology, and graduated in 1979. He now works in IT, as a Solution Designer on BT's broadband projects.



Prof. Simon Baron-Cohen – Simon Baron-Cohen FBA (born 15 August 1958) is professor of Developmental Psychopathology in the Departments of Psychiatry and Experimental Psychology at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom. He is the Director of the University's Autism Research Centre, and a Fellow of Trinity College.^[2] He is best known for his work on autism, including his early theory that autism involves degrees of "mind-blindness" (or delays in the development of theory of mind); and his later theory that autism is an extreme form of the "male brain", which involved a re-conceptualisation of typical psychological sex differences in terms of empathizing–systemizing theory.



Prof. John Stein - Professor John Stein read Animal Physiology at New College, Oxford, then an MSc in Neural Control of Respiration in the University Laboratory of Physiology, Oxford, then clinical medicine at St Thomas's Hospital, London. He then started training in Neurology, continuing in London, Leicester and Oxford. He was appointed tutor in Medicine at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1970. Since then he has been studying the visual control of eye and limb movements in animals and neurological patients. With Prof Mitch Glickstein (UCLondon), Prof Alan Gibson, (Barrow Neurological Inst. Phoenix) and Prof Chris Miall (Birmingham U.) he has studied the roles of the cerebellum, basal ganglia and brainstem in motor control.



Susannah Mayhew - Dr. Susannah Mayhew (M.A., Ph.D) is Senior Lecturer in health policy and reproductive health at the Population Studies Department, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. She has coordinated and led a range of multi-partner, multi-country research programmes. Her core competencies are in reproductive health and rights; health systems particularly integration of reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services; health and human rights policy including gender; population demographics and politics. She has worked on research projects throughout sub-Saharan Africa and South-East Asia and is currently Principal Investigator on two multi-partner studies: the Integra research programme assessing integrated RH/HIV services in Kenya, Swaziland and Malawi (Gates Foundation funding through IPPF) and 'Challenging the Development Paradigm' a research programme on accountability of development decision making in the context of climate change and changing population demographics (ESRC-DFID funding). She has coordinated LSHTM work under several DFID-funded SRH Research Programme Consortia. She teaches on a range of MSc programmes covering a range of reproductive and sexual health policy, programme and systems issues as well as human and reproductive rights issues and the ethics of research. She sits on the Steering Group for the UK based Population & Sustainability Network and is a Fellow of the UK's Royal Society of Medicine.



Catherine Budgett-Meakin - Since 2001 Catherine has been involved with population and sustainability issues, after 15 years teaching in London comprehensives and 15 years with ITDG (now Practical Action). 2002 took her to the UN in New York, to Bali and then to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August. She became the coordinator of the Population and Sustainability Network (PSN) in 2003 (www.populationandsustainability.org). She chaired an event at the UN in April 2004, at which PSN was launched. In May 2008 she stepped down from her post as PSN coordinator and is now senior advisor to PSN.



Fred Pearce – Fred Pearce is a freelance author and journalist based in London. He has reported on environment, science and development issues from 64 countries over the past 20 years. Trained as a geographer, he has been environment consultant of *New Scientist* magazine since 1992. He writes regularly for the *Guardian* newspaper. He is a frequent lecturer, having spoken on all six continents in the past four years, and is a contributor to US newspapers and magazines. Fred's books have been translated into 16 languages and won a number of prizes. *When the Rivers Run Dry* was listed among the all-time Top 50 Sustainability Books by the University of Cambridge's Programme for Sustainable Leadership. His other books include *Confessions of an Eco Sinner*, *Earth: Then and Now*, *The Last Generation* (on climate change), *Deep Jungle* and *Peoplequake*, published in February this year.



Roger Martin [Population Matters] - Roger Martin was a first-year VSO in Africa, did other volunteer jobs in Algeria and Hong Kong, was a 1963 civil rights campaigner in Alabama, and a founder member of the UK Campaign Against Racial Discrimination. He became a diplomat, serving in Asia, the UN, Middle East and Africa, before resigning in fury as Deputy High Commissioner in Zimbabwe to become an environmentalist in Somerset. - Over 22 years, he has been elected and appointed to numerous local, regional and national environmental NGOs and quangos (Regional Assembly, National Park, several Environment Agency committees, Wildlife Trust Director, regional Chair and national Trustee CPRE, Water Framework Directive Panel, etc). He progressively realised, and began saying, that indefinite population growth, though never mentioned, dooms all these bodies worthy efforts at achieving sustainability to long term failure. (Normal response: a short pause; everyone stares at their papers; Chairman moves on; and then many say over coffee how right he was to raise it). Chairman Population Matters since 2009, giving workshops and presenting papers on population and climate change in Geneva, Barcelona, Copenhagen, Washington, New York, Kampala, Oslo and Stockholm. He has an Honorary Doctorate in environmental science from UWE; and a very multi-racial extended family.



Gregory Butcher - Gregory ran his first business from his bedroom and continued to run business while reading a degree. George went on to build a FMCG company which is a global brand leader in its market niche. - He built and acquired consumer data handling companies which were operated to be cash generative. He funded and managed the purchase of the 352 distressed assets in the last UK property downturn of the early 1980's. - Gregory then brought assets at periods of distress in order to maximize his gain. These included buying into Asia after the Asian crash in 1997 and the 'tech' correction in the early 2000's, the German property market when it was on its knees, as well as doing the same elsewhere in countries such as the Netherlands. Eventually moving to Gibraltar from where he did the same, bought assets at distressed prices making a further fortune as they were developed into the largest resort there. - Gregory's modus operandi has been to buy assets at a discount in order to maximize gains, he follows crashes and analyses how population and demographics are likely to affect the future value of assets. - Gregory is the Chairman of the Fairhomes (Gibraltar) Group of Companies and is currently founding a major distressed assets fund.



Robin J. Wilson - Robin Wilson is an Emeritus Professor of Pure Mathematics at the Open University, Emeritus Professor of Geometry at Gresham College, London, and President-elect of the British Society for the History of Mathematics. He has written and edited many books on mathematics and its history, including 'Introduction to Graph Theory', 'Four Colours Suffice', and 'Lewis Carroll in Numberland'. He is greatly involved with the popularization and communication of his subject, and has won two awards from the Mathematical Association of America for his 'outstanding expository writing'.



Sir Crispin Tickell - Oxford University. Most of his career was in the Diplomatic Service. He was Chef de Cabinet to the President of the European Commission (1977-80), Ambassador to Mexico (1981-83), Permanent Secretary of the Overseas Development Administration (1984-87), British Permanent Representative to the United Nations (1987-90), and Warden of Green College, Oxford (1990-97). He is an author and contributor to many publications on environmental, climate and related issues.



Joana Deleforce - Joanna Delaforce was born and brought up in Porto, Portugal, as part of a Port family. Was educated in Porto and the UK (including a 2.1 BA Hons degree from Manchester University in Hispanic Studies and is fluent in Portuguese, Spanish and French. - Before joining the Wine Trade in 1983, she had a very wide and diverse career, including teaching for 4 years in Oporto, working for US TV, Banking in the City and Sales and Marketing roles in the Translation and Industrial Security Services. - Was the first female Chairman of the Wine & Spirit Association (now known as the WSTA), is a Panel Chair/Senior Judge for Fortified Wines at several Wine Competitions and is a regular speaker/lecturer/tutor on Port and Madeira. Has her own Consultancy business with several annual contracts and lives near Cambridge with 2 cats and a large garden, which is linked into population and re-growth of plants, let alone food for birds.



Programme

21st – 25th July 2011

Thursday 21st July

19.30 – 21.00 Arrive. Check in at The Porter's Lodge. After Check in the Porters will direct you to the 'Hospitality Room' to receive your information pack up to 18.30 [after that time ask Janet Egan at dinner or later in the weekend about your pack].

19.30 – 21.00 -- Informal Dinner. Bar open until 23.00, hospitality room closes at midnight + Talk to old and new friends and discuss the program.

Friday 22nd July

07.30 – 08.30 -- Breakfast in Hall. Traditional English buffet breakfast.
Tuck in. Diet later!

09.00 – 10.00 Welcome, meet the all the organizers, and familiarize yourself with the house rules, and details of how the organisers can help.

10.00 – 10.30 -- Coffee and Tea Break in the cloisters.

10.30 – 12.00 *Chris Leek* - Mensa was founded in the UK, but is now very much an International society, with members in many countries. One of the great strengths of Mensa is the diversity encompassed within the society. Mensa members come in all shapes and sizes, from every walk of life. That same rich variety is reflected in the differences between national Mensa groups. Chris will talk about his experiences visiting many different national groups, highlighting some of their differences as well as their similarities. Will also touch on IQ, nations, and intelligence, including a few questions arising from work by Flynn and others."

12.00 – 12.30 Photographs. Gather round in the grounds of Sidney Sussex College for the group photograph. You will be presented with your own copy to take away with you!

12.30 – 13.30 -- Lunch.

14.00 – 15.30 *Prof. Simon Baron-Cohen* – Is there any truth to the idea that autism and scientific talent are linked? That is, that scientists as a group have higher rates of autism than one would expect from chance, or that people with autism have a facility for thinking scientifically? In this talk, I consider evidence from experiments with both scientists and people with autism spectrum conditions. The connection between autism and scientific talent is discussed in relation to a psychological theory (hyper-systemizing). Systemizing is the drive to analyse or build a system. A system is defined as anything that takes input and transforms it into output, via a lawful operation. When you systemize, you try to identify the laws that govern the system. Evidence is presented for the idea that in autistic spectrum conditions, and first-degree relatives of such individuals, there is hyper-systemizing. Sex differences in systemizing may be linked to foetal testosterone and genetic factors. I also discuss the idea that autism is the result of assortative mating of two strong systemizers. Finally, I consider how this same mechanism – hyper-systemizing – may underlie not just the very visible and unusual examples of talent in autism, but also the more universal profile of 'obsessional, narrow interests' and 'resistance to change' that characterize all people on the autistic spectrum.

15.30 – 16.00 -- Coffee and Tea Break in the cloisters.

16.15 – 18.45 *Prof. John Stein* - The strongest predictor of future success at age 5 is how well developed a child's ability is to communicate successfully with parents and other children both verbally and non-verbally. Recent studies have begun to elucidate the neural structures, genes, and neurotransmitter systems involved. Cortical regions in the temporal lobe participate in perceiving socially relevant stimuli, whereas the amygdala, right somatosensory cortices, orbitofrontal cortices, and cingulate cortices all participate in linking perception of such stimuli to motivation, emotion, and cognition. 'Magnocellular' neurones specialized for temporal processing and directing visual and auditory attention seem to play a particularly important role. We are now discovering ways of partially rescuing their function after genetic, nutritional or emotional damage.

19.30 – 21.00 -- Informal Dinner. Bar open until 23.00, hospitality room closes at midnight + and a Surprise Event.

07.30 – 08.30 -- Breakfast in Hall. Traditional English buffet breakfast.
Tuck in. Diet later!

09.00 – 10.30 *Susannah Mayhew* - Breaking the Silence on Global Human Population Issues. The world's population is expected to exceed nine billion by 2050, with far-reaching consequences for the environment and human health. The impact of such population growth upon food and water supplies, carbon emissions and urban living conditions, among other factors, is increasingly being recognised, and population dynamics are returning to the development agenda.

The history of the world's exponential population growth is extraordinary. In 1830 one billion people lived on this planet; in 2011 our population will exceed seven billion. The vast majority of this increase has occurred in the developing world at a rate of about two per cent over the last 50 years. Although there is a gradual decline in the rate of population growth worldwide, the absolute population will increase to nine billion around 2050. Other population dynamics, including urbanisation – more than 50 per cent of the world's population already live in urban areas – and ageing, are becoming unprecedented challenges and the uneven expansion of the globe's population also demands different policy responses to cater to the varying conditions and needs of different populations.

This paper will discuss the implications of these population dynamics for poverty and human health, climate change, food and water security. It will discuss the response of the international donor community to these issues and what more needs to be done. In particular it considers the importance of rights-based promotion of family planning in achieving human rights, human health and a sustainable future for our planet.

10.30 – 11.00 -- Coffee and Tea Break in the cloisters.

11.00 – 12.30 *Catherine Budgett-Meakin* –

Senior Advisor, Population and Sustainability Network.

Population: Making Connections and Avoiding Heffalump Traps Why has population, until recently, disappeared off the international agenda? Discussion about population has become disputed territory over the last 20 or so years. Funding for family planning, following the UN Population conference in 1994, was reduced. Meanwhile world population grows by about 80 million every year. Catherine's illustrated talk will focus on the various 'heffalump' traps and suggest ways to climb out of them.

12.30 – 13.30 -- Buffet Lunch.

14.00 – 15.30 *Fred Pearce* - The population bomb is being defused -- by the poor women of the developing world. Global average fertility rates are today just 2.6 children per woman, half what it was little more than a generation ago and getting close to the current replacement level of 2.3. We can expect to see "peak population" by mid-century. With it will come new problems, notably ageing. China, today the economic tiger that Japan was half a century ago, is set to succeed Japan as the world's oldest nation. What will this new demographic revolution mean for geopolitics and for the planet's environment? And what comes after peak population? Could human population begin to shrink?

15.30 – 16.00 -- Coffee and Tea Break in the cloisters.

16.00 – 17.30 *Roger Martin [Population Matters]* - Roger Martin will contextualise recent human development in the last 10,000 years in the framework of our planet's history, notably evolution. He will show that the growth of both population and consumption in the last century is unprecedented and unsustainable; relate it to the ecology of the physical world, the mathematics of the exponential function, the economics of capitalism, and the psychology of cognitive dissonance; discuss the history of the recent 'mad taboo' surrounding this subject; and suggest a way forward.

18.30 – 19.00 – Your chance to dress up for the Formal reception and dinner. Mingle and sample the wine in the cloisters. - With a very special event!

19.00 – 21.30 -- Gala Dinner. Enjoy fine food and drink in this marvelous venue on our 31st anniversary! Plus a truly memorable after dinner speech by *Gregory Butcher* [to cover some of the following: Economics – is it an art, a science, or animal behavior? The introduction will cover why economics and thus business is more than pure science or mathematics and why an understanding of this is crucial. Maslow and why property needs and desires are so important. A look at why property is so important to people and to economics Drivers of property values – logical, economic I will run through the key drivers of property values according to logical economic man, and then follow up with Drivers of property value – animalistic An exploration of the animalistic side of all of our behavior – even the so called sophisticated investor. When to buy The first of the two drivers of value, how to work out when to buy When to sell]

Then hospitality room

Sunday 24th July

08:00 – 08.50 -- Buffet Breakfast.

09.00 – 10.30 Robin J. Wilson – Lewis Carroll in Numberland

Abstract:

If Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) had not written the 'Alice' books, he'd be mainly remembered as a pioneering photographer. But his day job was as a mathematics lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford.

But what mathematics did he do? How good a mathematician was he? In this illustrated talk, aimed at a general audience (no knowledge of mathematics required), I shall try to provide some answers to these questions.

10.30 – 11.00 -- Coffee and Tea Break in the cloisters.

11.00 – 12.30 Sir Crispin Tickell – The Human Future

Humans have changed the face of the Earth. Hence the proposal that we should invent a new geological epoch - the Anthropocene - to date from the beginning of the industrial revolution. Our problems now range from the multiplication of one animal species - our own - to pollution of land, sea and air, and the degradation and exhaustion of the resources, including other species in the natural world, on which we depend. We also face widening divisions between rich and poor within and between countries, and the risks of war, including terrorism, in which unimaginably horrible weapons could be used.

Looking ahead, humans, if there are such, a hundred years from now will live in a more globalized world of rapid communication in what will be something like a single human civilization. Our numbers will almost certainly be reduced; communities will be dispersed, with energy, transport systems and agriculture more local and specialized; and computers will exercise much greater control, with effects on the human brain and evolution itself. The dominance of our species could be no more than a relatively short episode in the history of life on Earth.

12.30 – 13.30 -- Lunch.

14.00 – 15.30 Joana Deleforce – POPULATION & WINE - What is the connection?

Vines, hugely populated and increasingly so, produce grapes and employment which is growing globally. China being the new player. Part of many countries' culture, history and a very essential part of their economy ex: "South Africa & Chile"

Global warming has encouraged many new practises to help workers who could have been exposed to serious health problems with the use of industrial insecticides. How do we address the negatives of the "Demon Drink" lobby?

Moderation is what we in the Drinks Trade preach: this also applies to such contentious subjects as birth control.

Both elements are linked in as we need to look at population from all aspects including jobs for all ages in an ever growing global population increase.

16.00 – 16.30 -- Coffee and Tea Break in the cloisters.

18.00 – 19.30 Debate – To be held by Jerry Monk – Population Roundup: The information to form the base of an article on population.

Monday 25th July

19.30 – 21.00 -- Informal Dinner. Hospitality room closes at midnight + Relax, Chess or other games.

07.30 – 09.00 -- Breakfast, and after Farewell [talk to friends in the cloisters]. Then safe journey home.

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