



Fresh from the Forum



What's coming up at the IF this winter

Are you curious about storytelling? Interested in the ethics of science?



We have an event for you this winter! Find out more about our free upcoming events, which are all open to the public, on [pages 2 and 3](#).



2023: An IF year in review

From public events, to major funding grants, to a new podcast, the past year was a successful one for the IF! Read more about the IF in 2023 on [page 6](#).

Stay up to date with the IF by following us on [Twitter/X @IntellForum](#).

Future of Work Hackathon: Promoting inclusivity in the workplace

How can working environments become more accessible?

In December, the IF hosted the University of Cambridge ThinkLab, BBC CAPE, and Google for a two-day workshop trying to answer this question. Read more on [pages 4 and 5](#).



Coming up at the IF



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Find out more about each event on our [Forthcoming Events page](#).

To watch recordings of previous events, visit the [Jesus College YouTube page](#).

Keep an eye out for our events in collaboration with the Cambridge Festival, which will be announced on 12 February!

Thrilling plots and chilling realities: Writing global thrillers

Thriller writer Mike Harrison discusses the art of creative writing and how to weave real-world issues, such as international relations and AI, into fiction.



The power of immersive storytelling

Join engineer and experiential architect Meredith O'Shaughnessy as she explores the transformative power of storytelling in shaping our world.



Rory Cellan-Jones in conversation

Explore the intersection of personal history, journalism, and cultural understanding with the former BBC journalist and Jesus College alumnus. Co-hosted by the Modern & Medieval Languages and Literature Society at Jesus College.

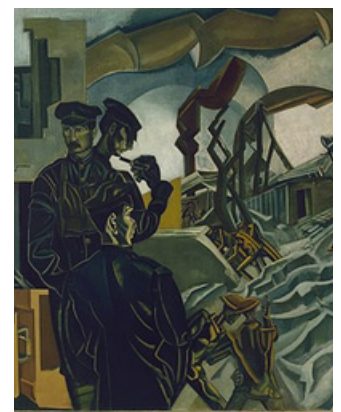
Law and the making of life

Stem cell models of organs and tissues are allowing scientists to do incredible things. In this year's Lisa Jardine Memorial Lecture, Prof Emily Jackson asks: is a new regulatory regime now required?



Wyndham Lewis's modernist critique

Prof Paul Edwards takes us into the life and work of Wyndham Lewis, a writer and one of Britain's first modernist painters. Prof Edwards will address Lewis's complicated legacy and his often scathing 1927 book, 'Time and Western Man'.



Power and the unWERIDification of behavioural science

Behavioural science is too WEIRD (Western, Educated, Industrialised, Rich, and Democratic). Catherine Angai discusses how we can widen participation in the field to better represent the diversity of human experience.



Feedback from event attendees:

"The Intellectual Forum is the most understated, unknown jewel in cultural Cambridge!"

"Love your events, brilliant speakers addressing relevant issues."

"Superb. Thank you!"

New event announcement



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Sentia: The science behind safe social drinking

Thursday 1 February, 19:30
Frankopan Hall and online



According to new research published by Alcohol Change UK, more than one in four people want to reduce the amount of alcohol they drink in 2024.

For those who want the good parts of alcohol - feelings of connection, socialisation, and relaxation - without its downsides, Sentia hopes to be the answer. The first GABA Spirit, Sentia is designed by scientists to activate the neurotransmitter responsible for feelings of sociability, giving drinkers the positive feelings of alcohol without the risk of hangovers or taking it too far.

Join us at the IF to hear from Prof David Nutt, one of the scientists behind Sentia, as he explains how GABA Spirits work and why he believes they might be the future of social drinking.

[Reserve a free place on our Eventbrite page.](#)

Try Sentia for yourself! Each in-person audience member will receive a drinks token which can be redeemed for a free Sentia drink in the Jesus College Bar after the event.

About the speaker

Professor David Nutt is one of the world's foremost experts on alcohol and its effects. He co-founded GABA Labs in order to achieve his vision of bringing more choices to adult social drinkers. Sentia, a GABA Spirit, is the first consumer-facing brand to evolve from this work.



Stories from the IF team



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Hackathon: Shaping the future of work

In the UK, 15% of the working-age population is neurodivergent, yet their representation in the workforce is disproportionately low. What can we do to make workplaces more inclusive?

This was the central question at the first University of Cambridge ThinkLab Hackathon, which the IF was delighted to host at Jesus College on December 11 and 12.

The Hackathon was organised by the ThinkLab, managed by IF SRA [Tyler Shores](#), in collaboration with [BBC CAPE](#) and [Google's ADC \(Accessibility Discovery Centre\)](#). The two-day event brought together students, researchers, and industry experts to consider how to promote inclusivity and accessibility in both physical and online workplaces.



Ahead of the event, the ThinkLab team, led by Tyler and Elifgül Doğan, and the IF worked to ensure that the Hackathon itself was a model of inclusivity, accessibility, and understanding. Designated calm zones were set aside for quiet time during the two days, physical accessibility was possible to every type of space in use, and the ThinkLab produced a variety of guides, including a Sensory Guide and Social Story and a Neurodiversity Inclusion and Access Plan, for participants to familiarise themselves with the College and the programme ahead of the event.

When they arrived in West Court at Jesus College on the first morning, participants were split into three multidisciplinary teams and asked to collaborate over the two-day Hackathon to come up with ideas and solutions for making hybrid workplaces more accessible to neurodiverse workers. Outputs could take any form of the team's choosing, from a research report, an event proposal, specifications for software, or objects to make navigating the workplace easier.

[Find out more about the University of Cambridge ThinkLab on their website.](#)

Stories from the IF team



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Between group planning and discussion sessions, all participants reconvened for keynote sessions, including a talk on wellbeing intelligence in the workplace and perspectives from Google on creating an inclusive working environment. A particular highlight of the programme was a LEGO Serious Play session moderated by Monique Boddington, a professor at Judge Business School, which encouraged problem solving, creative thinking, and communication within teams.



The winning team.

At the end of the second day, all teams presented their projects. The winning team, commended for their innovative idea and exceptional teamwork, proposed Embodied, a digital platform that uses various smart features to cater to the specific needs of neurodiverse individuals and improve their remote working experiences. They received £5000 of funding from ThinkLab to pursue the project further. The second place team was also offered mentoring and support based on the strength of their idea: a board game based on neurodivergent scenarios and experiences.

“This was a bit of an experiment by ThinkLab in exploring possibilities, and the teamwork and next steps that everyone generated together have gone far beyond our biggest expectations”, Tyler said. “The future of work and inclusion and accessibility is exactly the kind of challenge that benefits from a multidisciplinary approach and combining areas of expertise. I’m already thinking about what we can do for the next time, and how we can aim for bigger and better things”.



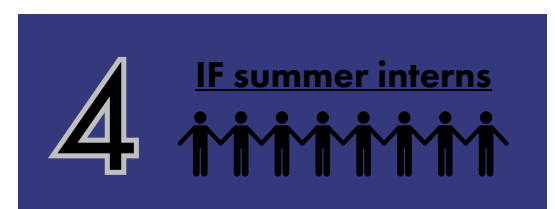
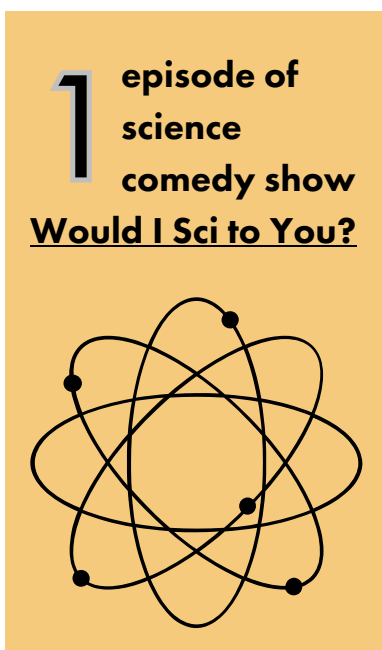
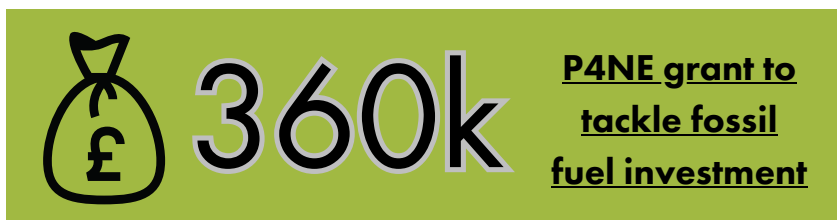
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2023 was a banner year for the IF!

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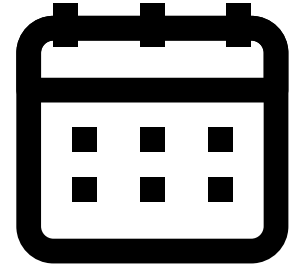


Never miss an event

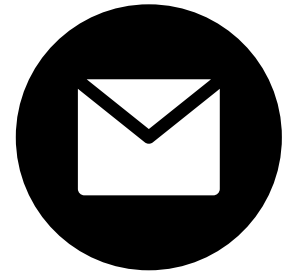


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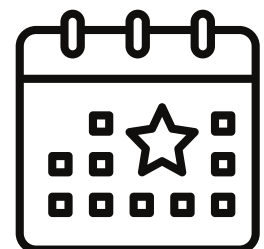
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