

Call for contributions for UCL Neuroscience / British Library public engagement event



The British Library and the UCL Neuroscience domain are inviting ideas for a contribution to a public event taking place in October 2015 on the theme of **memory**. We are seeking ideas for a breakout activity to take place during the interval of the main stage show.

About the organisers

UCL Neuroscience and the British Library have been working together for a number of years to deliver public events on topics related to neuroscience. The events have covered a wide range of topics and have helped to engage the public with key neuroscience themes in an innovative way.

These collaborative events typically take a broad neuroscience theme and explore it from a variety of angles. We aim to mix up science with art, history, philosophy and music, demonstrating that neuroscience has a central role in our society. In the past we have welcomed neuroscientists as well as opera singers, fine artists, philosophers and puppeteers to contribute to our events.

Previous events are outlined below:

- 2012: The Performing Brain - [Webpage](#)
- 2013: Your Creative Brain: The Neuroscience of Imagination - [Webpage](#)
- 2014: Counting Sheep: The Science of Sleep - [Webpage](#). (Note that 2014 was the first year we have included breakout activities in addition to the stage show element. These activities included an exploration of how sleep has been represented in art through the ages, an interactive quiz exploring the myths and realities of sleep and a sound station featuring lullabies and sounds of animals snoring.)

This year's event

The theme for this year's event is "memory". The provisional event title is "**The Science of Memory: Travels through Space and Time**". The event will explore how memories are formed and how they are recalled, and investigate how our brain uses memories to navigate our world, imagine the future and remember the past. We will also explore whether these skills are shared by other animals.

Our contributors include Professor Nicky Clayton and Clive Wilkins who will discuss mental time travel and how this allows us to revisit our memories and imagine future scenarios. We are also pleased to welcome Dr Hugo Spiers who will talk about how our brain constructs representations of the world and uses them to navigate through space, covering his work on place cells and our inner GPS. We also welcome Chris Rawlins, a memory artist who will demonstrate his super human memory and explain how he maximises his memory's capacity. We will also explore the British Library's role as an institution that preserves the intellectual memory of the nation.

The speakers/performers described above make up the stage show part of the evening. We will also have a 45 minute interval where the audience can explore various "breakout" activities. We ask you to contribute a proposal for a breakout activity (see below).

The event will take place on the evening of **30th October 2015** at the British Library conference centre. Please do not apply if you are unable to attend on this date!

Your contribution

We are seeking proposals for an activity to take place during the interval of the main stage show. (~45 minutes). This could include, but is not limited to, interactive games, hands-on science activities, show and tell sessions, short talks and interactive quizzes.

Topics to explore could include, but are not limited to, memory loss and dementia, false memories, stress/fear and memory, memory and spatial cognition, sensory memory stimuli, memory enhancement or learning. Note that we welcome applications that explore the topic of memory from historical, ethical, social, political as well as scientific perspectives.

The activity should be designed to be carried out in a breakout room of the British Library's conference centre. The interval is 45 minutes long and the 250 guests will be able to wander freely between the breakout rooms and explore the different activities. The room capacities range from 40-70.

The British Library can provide access to basic AV equipment (laptops, plasma screens, projector displays, remote clickers etc) as well as a variety of standard furniture (tables, chairs etc)

Should you need it, there is a maximum of £250 funding available to cover expenses such as printing of materials, prop hire, transportation of equipment etc.

The event is expected to attract an audience of around 250 people. These are likely to be mostly adults. This is a public event so remember that your activity should be accessible to those without a scientific background.

Eligibility

Entries are open to **any UCL staff and students from PhD students up to 10 years post-doc**, although an exceptional application outside of these boundaries would still be considered. **Note that you do not have to be a part of the UCL neuroscience domain or indeed based in a scientific faculty to apply.**

You may apply individually or as part of a team. We recommend teams of between 2 and 4.

Judging

We are looking for proposals that:

- show a strong link to the theme of the event
- will appeal to a public audience
- demonstrate creativity and innovation
- are practical/feasible

Judges will include:

- Katie Howe: Science Engagement Manager, British Library
- Candice Lewis: Communications and Events Officer, UCL Neuroscience Domain.

We will select one or two applications for inclusion in the event on 30th October. Depending on the number and quality of entries, there may be a second stage of judging in which entries are invited to meet the judging panel.

Unfortunately we can't guarantee that we will be able to provide detailed feedback on individual applications.

Schedule

Call open for submissions	Early June 2016
Deadline for submissions	Friday 3 rd July 2016
Notification of successful submissions	Late July
Further development of idea in collaboration with UCL Neuroscience and British Library staff.	August -October
Event	30 th October

Application form

Name (of primary contact):	
Email address:	
Supervisor/Department:	
Job role (PhD student/post-doc):	
Other team members/ job roles:	
Short summary of content (max 50 words)	
Detailed event proposal (max 500 words):	
Funding required? Please give details (max £250 available):	
Equipment required:	

Please send completed application forms to candice.lewis@ucl.co.uk by Friday 3rd July 2015.