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Subject: New Events. Douglas Hurd on the Queen. How the French Think. Great Explorers- Alexander von Humboldt and Ranulph Fiennes. Ways to Change the World.

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How to: Autumn Programme

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03.11.2015

Evening Event, 6:30pm - 7:45pm

how to: Explore (The story of one of the world's greatest Explorers – Alexander Von Humboldt)

with Andrea Wulf

Special Travel & Science Evening. Tickets are only £15 and include a copy of the

book - RRP £25.

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) is one of the greatest but least well-known explorers and scientists: more things are named after him than anyone else. There are towns, rivers, mountain ranges, the ocean current that runs along the South American coast, there's a penguin, a giant squid – even the Mare Humboldtianum on the moon.

His colourful adventures read like something out of a Boy's Own story: Humboldt explored deep into the rainforest, climbed the world's highest volcanoes and inspired princes and presidents, scientists and poets alike. Napoleon was jealous of him; Simon Bolívar's revolution was fuelled by his ideas; Darwin set sail on the Beagle because of Humboldt; and Jules Verne's Captain Nemo owned all his many books. He simply was, as one contemporary put it, 'the greatest man since the Deluge'.



Taking us on a fantastic voyage in his footsteps – racing across anthrax-infected Russia or mapping tropical rivers alive with crocodiles – Andrea Wulf's talk will show why his life and ideas remain so important today. Humboldt predicted human-induced climate change as early as 1800, and *The Invention of Nature* traces his ideas as they go on to revolutionize and shape science, conservation, nature writing, politics, art and the theory of

evolution. He wanted to know and understand everything and his way of thinking was so far ahead of his time that it's only coming into its own now. Alexander von Humboldt really did invent the way we see nature.





AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS



29.09.2015

how to: Understand the Universe

with Carlo Rovelli

Join us for an unmissable lunchtime talk by Carlo Rovelli, the author of the bestselling *Seven Brief Lessons on Physics*: an 80 page book on physics written for readers that know little or nothing about the subject which has now sold over 300,000 copies.

For this talk, not in 80 pages but in less than hour, Professor Rovelli will explain in simple terms some of Einstein's theory of general relativity, quantum mechanics, black holes, the complex architecture of the universe, elementary particles, gravity and the nature of the mind.

The strangeness, the mysteries, the poetry, and especially the intense beauty of the world described today by physics will be entertainingly revealed and you will be able to wonder at the bending of space, the slowing of time, the wavy nature of matter, the quanta of space, the vastness of the cosmos, and the mysterious relation between heat and time.

[Read more and book now](#)





13.10.2015

how to: An Evening with Ranulph Fiennes

with Ranulph Fiennes

In this talk for the How To Academy, the world's greatest living explorer who has travelled to some of the most remote, dangerous parts of the globe and is well-known for his experiences at the poles and climbing Everest, will talk about how he has also endured some of the hottest conditions on the planet, where temperatures regularly exceed 40 degrees and, without water and shelter, death is inevitable.

Ranulph Fiennes was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE). One of Britain's most famous explorers, he has raised over £14 million for charity and was named Best Sportsman in the 2007 ITV Great Britain Awards. In 2009 he became the oldest Briton to reach the summit of Everest and in 2015, the oldest Briton to complete the Marathon des Sables.

[Read more and book now](#)





24.09.2015

how to: The Company of Trees. (A Personal Journey with Thomas Pakenham)

with Thomas Pakenham

In this talk acclaimed historian and bestselling author Thomas Pakenham , the original Man of the Trees, will share his profound love of trees.

Drawing on his new book *The Company of Trees* Thomas will recount his personal quest to establish a large arboretum at his family estate, Tullynally in Ireland, his forays to other tree-filled parks and plantations, his often hazardous seed-hunting expeditions, and his efforts to preserve magnificent old trees and historic woodlands.

We will also journey with him to the Tibetan border in search of a magnolia and to Eastern Patagonia to see the last remaining giants of the Monkey Puzzle tree, to Tibet's Tsango Gorge which yields more than 100 bags of seeds, including the Tibetan golden oak, the Tsango cypress and blue-stemmed maples.

[Read more and book now](#)





30.09.2015

how to: Spies, Codes and Guerrillas 1939–1945

with Max Hastings

In this talk for the How To Academy based on his new book on *Spies, Codes and Guerrillas*, Max Hastings will talk about the espionage and intelligence machines of all sides in World War II, and the impact of spies, code-breakers and partisan operations on events.

He will examine key moments, such as the Soviet espionage operations which dwarfed those of every other belligerent in scale, as well as the code-breaking operation at Bletchley Park – the greatest intelligence achievement of the conflict.

The talk will also touch on other less well known tales of high courage ashore, at sea and in the air such as womanising Richard Sorge pretending to be a committed Nazi whilst spying for the Soviet Union from the German embassy in Tokyo, and Joseph Rochefort, the awkward, overlooked US naval intelligence officer who in a moment of inspiration became the man who won the battle of Midway.

For an evening full of high policy, human drama, treachery, guerrilla warfare, ciphers, clandestine meetings in cafes, and wireless operators tapping out messages across the airwaves, this is the talk to come to.

[Read more and book now](#)



NEW EVENTS



10.11.2015

how to: How the French Think

with Sudhir Hazareesingh

An incisive exploration of the French intellectual tradition.

In this talk for the How To Academy on How The French Think, Sudhir Hazareesingh will discuss the French intellectual tradition, exploring its long-term characteristics and evolutions over the past 400 years. Ranging from the philosophical ideas of Voltaire and Descartes, to the symbolic significance of Astérix, Sudhir Hazareesingh will show how bold, imaginative and sweeping French thought has been, tracing its tumultuous history from a confident and often brazen optimism to the current mood of increasing introspection.

Drawing on his book on How The French Think Sudhir will explore the ideas of the most influential French thinkers; the nations central ideals of citizenship, progress and social justice; their cult of heroes and messianic instincts; the think tanks, taverns and cafés that promote cultural sociability across the land; and the current fixation with nation and collective memory.

[Read more and book now](#)



CONFERENCE



01.12.2015

CONFERENCE

how to: WAYS TO CHANGE THE WORLD

with Ian Goldin, Christopher Choa, Ewan Birney, Lewis Dartnell, Eldad Tzahor, Suchitra Sebastian, Robin Carhart-Harris, Steven Cowley, Michael Osborne, Carl Benedikt Frey, Sarah Harper, Vlatko Vedral, Anders Sandberg, moderated by Matthew Taylor

Now in its second year the How To Academy Conference on "How To Change the World" will be held on the 1st December 2015 at the Royal Institution. Tickets are priced at £145 inc Vat.

Themes covered will include: **The Future in 15 years, Driverless Vehicles, Bioinformatics, Hunting for Alien Life, Fixing a Broken Heart , Quantum Materials, Psychedelic Drugs, Fusion Energy, Living to 100, Technology at Work: The Future of Employment, Bio-Inspired Quantum Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Transhumanism..**

Moderated by Matthew Taylor, the Chief Executive of the RSA, it will feature 13 world class scientists and technologists from the Oxford Martin School, Cambridge University, Imperial College and the Weizmann Institute, with a keynote talk on the Future by Professor Ian Goldin from the Oxford Martin School.

[Read more and book now](#)



HISTORY



08.10.2015

how to: English Monarchs. Elizabeth II, Victoria, William & Mary, Henry V

with Anne Curry, Douglas Hurd, Helen Castor, Jane Ridley, Jonathan Keates

Following on from the huge success of the first series of talks to launch the Penguin Monarch series, the How To Academy is delighted to present another evening of talks and discussion. Join us to hear Douglas Hurd on Elizabeth II, Jane Ridley on Victoria, Jonathan Keates on William & Mary and Anne Curry on Henry V.

Moderated by historian Helen Castor, this promises to be another fascinating exploration of the nature of Monarchy and its place at the heart of our history.

[Read more and book now](#)



LAST TICKETS REMAINING



22.09.2015



16.09.2015

how to: Emotional Intelligence with Daniel Goleman

with Daniel Goleman

[Read more and book now](#)



29.10.2015

how to: History of Architecture in 100 Buildings

with Dan Cruikshank

[Read more and book now](#)

how to: Read James Joyce, Ulysses

with Will Self

[Read more and book now](#)



18.09.2015

how to: Negotiate

with Gavin Presman

[Read more and book now](#)



PARTNER EVENT



13 -15 September 2015 Athens, Greece
New York Times Athens Democracy Forum
with Paul Krugman, Roger Cohen and more

Join us this September at the International New York Times Athens Democracy Forum. How To Academy members can benefit from a special 10% discount using the **discount code ADFHT2015**.

The Forum

Coinciding with UN International Democracy Day, the Athens Democracy Forum will convene diplomats, scholars, corporate executives, politicians, government ministers, experts and journalists from around the world. Together, at the ancient Agora - the birthplace of democracy- we will explore the state of liberal democracies and the major challenges they face in the world today.

Key themes

• Democracy & the Challenge of Money: Are the rich are getting richer and taking control of politics? • Democracy & the Challenge of Islam: Is terrorism inherent in Islam? • Democracy & the Challenge of China: Is Western liberal democracy the only way? • Democracy & the Challenge of Charlie Hebdo: Are there limits to freedom of expression? • Democracy & the Cyber Challenge: Limitless knowledge or existential threat? • Democracy & the Challenge of Smugness: Has the West become too complacent?

Hear from a world-class roster of speakers and thought-leaders, including:

• Paul Krugman: Op-Ed Columnist, The New York Times • Roger Cohen: Columnist, The New York Times • Sir Richard Dearlove KCMG, OBE: Former Intelligence Officer, British Secret Intelligence Service • Paula Dobriansky: Former US Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs • Kishore Mahbubani: Dean & Professor, National University of Singapore • Valerie Plame: Writer, Member of the Global Zero Leadership Board & Former CIA

To round out your Athens Democracy Forum experience, we invite you to participate in our selection of affiliated events, which includes:

• A panel discussion featuring the Prime Minister of Greece and New York Times columnist Roger Cohen • A lecture on democracy, presented by the American School of Classical Studies • An international student

debating competition at the Old Athenian Parliament Building • The Athens Democracy Awards • A music concert at Herod Atticus Theatre, at the foot of the Acropolis • Guided tours of The Ancient Agora, led by leading archaeologists • A private audience with International New York Times political cartoonist, Patrick Chappatte • City tours of Athens

Visit www.athensdemocracyforum.com to reserve your place or call Georgina Benjamin, Marketing & Audience Manager on +44 7940 530 917.

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