



The MAC Belfast
10 Exchange Street West,
Belfast BT1 2NJ

24-26 June 2022
Belfast



**FOR A TOLERANT
WORLD WHERE
RATIONAL THINKING
AND KINDNESS
PREVAIL**

WELCOME

Welcome to Belfast and Humanists UK Convention 2022! It's been a long time since we last met in person, at our Leicester Convention in 2019, so we're all somewhat over-excited to be here! I'm looking forward to once again introducing and enjoying the talks, debates, and lectures, alongside other staff and volunteers, as well as meeting as many of you as possible. Do say hello if you see me around.

Especially after the difficulties of the last two years, events like this are an opportunity to connect with people: renew old friendships, start new ones, and come together and learn with and from one another. It's what life's all about. Add to that laughter and the excitement of debate and new discoveries and we have the recipe for a hopefully fulfilling weekend. We have organised a fantastic lineup of speakers, entertainers, educators, and activists. So, whether you're a paid-up member or just curious about some of the ideas and values represented by humanism, I hope there's something in this programme for you.

In the week of World Humanist Day (21 June) we have good reason to take a step back and reflect on, and celebrate, the values of humanism more broadly – kindness, equality, rational thought, and working towards a world where everyone can

live a flourishing life. In six short years, Northern Ireland Humanists has done just that, becoming a trailblazer for promoting these values in Northern Ireland and quickly establishing itself as one of the country's leading human rights organisations. It's an achievement we can all be proud of and toast to this weekend.

As well as that link with organised humanism, Belfast's humanist history is broader still. Notable past residents include writer and activist John Hewitt: a founding member of the Belfast Peace League, and a fierce promoter of Irish history and tradition throughout the 20th century. Educationist and philanthropist Vere Foster also spent time here before his death in 1900 – his work influenced no doubt by the vibrant humanity and tender humour of this city. Another figure to have a significant impact not just on Northern Ireland but the world we now inhabit, was politician and barrister H. Montgomery Hyde, who was born in Belfast in 1907. He is probably best known for his outspoken views on the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

Whether you've been to lots of Humanists UK events before or this is your first, I hope you have a fantastic weekend. We are all here for the same reasons – to have



fun, to celebrate humanism, to explore new ideas, and to think about some of the work we're doing! Members are invited to come along to the Humanists UK AGM, which will be held on Sunday at 15:15, where you'll have a chance to catch up on a year of great achievements and new challenges for Humanists UK.

Just by being here this weekend, you're supporting our work towards creating real, lasting change for a kinder and more tolerant society where rational thinking and kindness prevail. Thank you.

YOUR TICKET

REGISTRATION

Register and collect your name badge at the registration desk in the foyer at The MAC.

Registration for Humanists UK Convention 2022 is open from 17:00 on Friday, 08:30 on Saturday, and 09:30 on Sunday.

DAY TICKETS

For the first time, we were able to make Day Tickets available for this year's Convention, with badges marked as below:

Friday



Saturday



Sunday



Convention ticket

Convention ticket-holders are welcome to join us at any talk or panel discussion throughout the weekend.

plus lunch

Join us for teas, coffees, and lunch on Saturday and Sunday.

Coffee is served at 14:50 on Saturday and Sunday.

plus dinner

Join us for drinks from 19:00 on Saturday evening, and for the Gala Dinner at 19:30.

There is no designated dress code for the dinner; come as you feel most comfortable.

plus lunch and dinner

Join us for teas, coffees, and lunches on both days, and for drinks and the Gala Dinner on Saturday evening.

FRIDAY

- 17:00** **Registration opens**
- 17:30** Cash bar opens
- 19:00** **Friday Night Comedy**
Tim McGarry, Angela Barnes, Colin Murphy, Eleanor Tiernan
- 21:00** **Welcome Drinks (cash bar)**

SATURDAY

- 08:30** **Registration opens**
- 09:00** **Welcome**
- 09:10** **Technology, Climate, Justice and Rights...**
A C Grayling
- 10:10** **Community Action**
Becky Bellamy, Connor Kerr, Holly Lester, Virginia Mendez, Katie Richardson, Boyd Sleator
- 11:10** **Deviant Bodies**
Adam Rutherford, Francesca Stavrakopoulou, Andrew Copson
- 12:00** Lunch
- 13:00** **Northern Ireland's Humanist Heritage**
Madeleine Goodall, Charlie Lynch, Tim McGarry
- 14:00** **Apostasy and Humanist Care (downstairs theatre)**
Imtiaz Shams, Pippa Swan, Clare Elcome Webber
- 14:00** **Humanists UK In Conversation With (upstairs theatre)**
Andrew Copson, Laura Lacole, Eunan O'Kane

SATURDAY

- 14:50** Coffee Break
- 15:10** **Artificial Intelligence vs. Human Fallibility**
Kate Devlin
- 16:10** **End Blasphemy Laws!**
Alyson Kilpatrick, Gary McLelland, Rachel Taggart-Ryan, Boyd Sleator
- 19:00** Drinks reception and dinner

SUNDAY

- 09:30** Registration opens
- 10:00** Welcome back
- 10:10** **Towards inclusive schools**
Kellie Armstrong MLA, Robert Cann, Lynn Johnston,
Matthew Milliken, Boyd Sleator
- 11:10** **Unravelling the secrets of the universe – and how you can help!**
Meg Schwamb, Stephen Smartt
- 12:00** Lunch
- 13:00** **Investigating the impossible**
Richard Wiseman
- 14:00** **Control: the dark history and troubling present of eugenics**
Adam Rutherford
- 14:50** Close and coffee
- 15:15** **Annual General Meeting (members only)**
- 17:00** **Drinks with trustees (members only)**

FRIDAY/SATURDAY SESSIONS

Friday Night Comedy

Tim McGarry, Angela Barnes, Colin Murphy, Eleanor Tiernan

Friday 19:00–Late

A fun, easy, social start to the weekend! The bar opens at 17:30, and comedy kicks off at 19:00. And why not stay for a few drinks with attendees old and new from 21:00?

Welcome

Andrew Copson

Saturday 09:00–09:05

Technology, Climate, Justice and Rights:

Can We Get the Whole World to Agree on Any of Them?

A C Grayling

Saturday 09:10–10:00

In A C Grayling's view, three of the biggest challenges facing the world today are climate change, the rate of development in high-impact technologies, and the global deficit of social and economic justice. They are connected: the third of these underlies problems in dealing with the first two. He asks: can human beings agree on a set of values that will allow us to confront the threats facing the planet, or will we simply continue with our disagreements and antipathies as we collectively approach greater problems and instability, and even our possible extinction? Both our problems and our technologies are outstripping our moral and current political capacity to deal with them. As every day brings new stories about extreme weather events, spyware, lethal autonomous weapons systems, and international political-economic, health and human rights imbalances, Grayling argues that we urgently need to find a positive answer to the question: Is global agreement on global challenges possible?

Community Action

Becky Bellamy, Connor Kerr, Holly Lester, Virginia Mendez,

Katie Richardson, Boyd Sleator

Saturday 10:10–11:00

Charity starts at home, or so goes the saying, and humanist beliefs and values inspire people around the world to give back to their communities. In this panel, Northern Ireland Humanists Coordinator Boyd Sleator will speak to other community activists from a diverse range of backgrounds and passions, who have all taken it upon themselves to make the world just a little bit kinder, more rational, and more tolerant.

Deviant Bodies

Adam Rutherford, Francesca Stavrakopoulou, Andrew Copson

Saturday 11:10–12:00

Science and religion are often assumed to offer contradictory and competing ways of understanding what it is to be human. But in this talk, Adam Rutherford and Francesca Stavrakopoulou discuss the ways in which science and religion have often conspired to marginalise and dehumanise certain groups of people by rendering their bodies deviant.

Northern Ireland's Humanist Heritage

Madeleine Goodall, Charlie Lynch, Tim McGarry

Saturday 13:00–13:50

Though often overshadowed by an emphasis on religious sectarianism, Northern Ireland has a rich history of secularism, humanism, and freethought, spanning hundreds of years. For this session, Northern Ireland Humanists patron Tim McGarry will be joined by Humanist Heritage

SATURDAY SESSIONS

Coordinator Madeleine Goodall and Dr Charlie Lynch, a researcher on sex and religion at Queen's University Belfast, to paint a more accurate picture of Northern Ireland's humanist history: from 17th century rationalists, through the atheist leaders of the Belfast Ethical Society, to the remarkable barrister, politician, author, and self-identified humanist H. Montgomery Hyde – whose explicit humanism was only recently discovered by Lynch in an unpublished memoir. Northern Ireland has a proud tradition of religious scepticism and humanist activism; it's high time to set the record straight.

Apostasy and Humanist Care

(downstairs theatre)

Clare Elcombe Webber, Pippa Swan, Imtiaz Shams

Saturday 14:00-14:50

Exiting a high-control religion or cult can be frightening, leaving individuals feeling isolated and not knowing where to turn. So-called 'apostates' can find themselves cast out of their families and communities with no safety net, and many face threats or abuse. In this session Imtiaz Shams, the founder of Faith to Faithless, will be joined by our Head of Humanist Care and Peer Support Coordinator to explore these impacts and the support we offer individuals to enable them to recover and flourish.

In Conversation With...

(upstairs theatre)

Laura Lacole, Eunan O'Kane, Andrew Copson

Saturday 14:00-14:50

Humanists UK Chief Executive Andrew Copson hosts an unscripted discussion over the course of 50 minutes with 2018 Humanists of the Year Award winners, Laura Lacole and Eunan O'Kane.

Artificial Intelligence vs. Human Fallibility

Kate Devlin

Saturday 15:10-16:00

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is already embedded in our lives, in reasonably narrow and specific contexts, generally in the form of software that automates processes by handling large amounts of data and deriving patterns within it. But AI is technocratic, with multinationals in the US and China leading development. Inequality in opportunity is rife, and many people are being left behind, facing bias in algorithmic decision making, as well as a tech sector set up to exclude them. As stories hit the news about machine learning that appears sentient, what truth is there in the narratives around AI, and who holds the power?

End Blasphemy Laws!

Alyson Kilpatrick, Gary McLelland, Rachel Taggart-Ryan, Boyd Sleator

Saturday 16:10-17:00

In 2008, after over a century of campaigning from Humanists UK, blasphemy laws in England and Wales were finally abolished. Scotland followed suit just last year. But these backwards blasphemy laws remain on the statute book in Northern Ireland. In 11 countries around the world, 'blasphemers' can be put to death, and the rulers of these authoritarian regimes point to our laws in justifying their own. In recent years, Northern Ireland Humanists has put ending blasphemy laws here into the political spotlight – a critical step if we want to see blasphemy laws repealed not just in the UK, but around the world.

SUNDAY SESSIONS

Towards inclusive schools

Kellie Armstrong MLA, Lynn Johnston, Matthew Milliken, Boyd Sleator, Robert Cann

Sunday 10:10-11:00

As humanists, we believe children segregated by the religious beliefs of their parents are being wronged. We believe it is their right to be able to play with, learn from, and grow up alongside children from diverse backgrounds, and with diverse beliefs, and have the opportunity through school to develop and to shape their own beliefs. In this session, our panel of experts will lay out the problems with religious discrimination in schools, and set out the benefits of – and perhaps the path towards – an inclusive education system.

Unravelling the secrets of the universe – and how you can help!

Meg Schwamb, Stephen Smartt

Sunday 11:10-12:00

For most of human history, the universe has been a mysterious and alien place. People across the world have looked awestruck to the moon, the planets, and the stars beyond, and invented creation myths time and again. But in recent decades, human inquisitiveness and ingenuity have allowed us to map our 'celestial backyard', and to peer deep into the wider, older universe to better understand the workings of the only home we'll ever know. Join astrophysicists Meg Schwamb and Stephen Smartt for a breakneck tour across the cosmos, and to find out how, today, even ordinary citizen scientists can lend a hand in unravelling the secrets of the universe.

Investigating the impossible

Richard Wiseman

Sunday 13:00-13:50

From magic to ghosts, and telepathy to illusions, scientists have long been fascinated by the seemingly impossible. In this talk, Richard will describe some of his adventures investigating these strange phenomena, and explore how an openness to the extraordinary underpins some of humanity's greatest achievements.

Control: the dark history and troubling present of eugenics

Adam Rutherford

Sunday 14:00-14:50

Genetics is a field that has provided immeasurably huge benefits to humankind, in knowledge, in the alleviation of suffering for hundreds of diseases, in the incontestable foundations of evolutionary theory. Yet it is also a subject that has a profoundly pernicious history, being inextricably bound to the ideology of eugenics. How did an esoteric academic theory evolve into the Holocaust in just 50 years, and why did it receive such widespread and bipartisan support, including from former Presidents of this very organisation?

SPEAKERS

Kellie Armstrong MLA has been an Alliance Party MLA for the Strangford Constituency since 2016. She has been a member of both the Infrastructure and Communities Committees and has worked on the Assembly and Executive Review Committee to consider reform of the NI Assembly to remove the need for political designations. Kellie successfully delivered her Private Member's Bill on Integrated Education. The Bill achieved Royal Assent in April 2022, becoming the Integrated Education Act.



Angela Barnes is a stand-up comedian and comedy show panellist from Kent, England. In 2011 she won the BBC New Comedy Award and has since toured several solo shows, including *You Can't Take It With You*, a show based on the death of her father, an atheist, and Angela's own approach to life, which went on to be a successful Radio 4 series. She married her husband in a humanist ceremony in September 2021, and is a patron of Humanists UK.



Becky Bellamy and Connor Kerr are artists and campaigners. They run Another World Belfast, a not-for-profit known since 2017 for its message and activism to 'SHOW SOME LOVE', and its secular, sustainable and practical approach to activism and aid. Their projects include 'The Love Pack', a public collection and distribution programme that puts together care packages of hygiene products and underwear for local charities and for groups supporting people living in hardship.



Robert Cann is Education Campaigns Manager at Humanists UK. He coordinates the organisation's work to stand up for the interests of humanists and other non-religious people in education, for non-religious beliefs to be respected in schools, and for a genuinely inclusive school system – one in which all pupils receive a rounded education and are taught together.



Andrew Copson is Chief Executive of Humanists UK. He became Chief Executive in 2010 after five years coordinating our education and public affairs work. He is also the current President of Humanists International.



SPEAKERS

Dr Kate Devlin is Reader in Artificial Intelligence & Society in the Department of Digital Humanities, King's College London. Her research investigates how people interact with and react to technologies, both past and future. Kate is the author of the critically acclaimed *Turned On: Science, Sex and Robots* which examines the ethical and social implications of technology and intimacy. She is Advocacy and Engagement Director for the UKRI Trusted Autonomous Systems Hub, a collaborative platform to enable the development of socially beneficial robotics and artificial intelligence systems that are both trustworthy in principle and trusted in practice.



Clare Elcombe Webber is Head of Humanist Care at Humanists UK, overseeing our work supporting people through the Non-Religious Pastoral Care Network, providing institutional care in settings like hospitals and prisons, and Faith to Faithless, which provides peer support and advice to so-called 'apostates'. Clare's role is to advance provision of like-minded pastoral care to and by humanists and non-religious people in healthcare, prisons, defence, and beyond, as well as developing our support for individuals leaving high-control religions.



Madeleine Goodall is the Humanist Heritage Coordinator at Humanists UK. Since 2019, she has been researching our 126-year history, as well as exploring the wider presence and influence of humanists and the non-religious in the UK. She has a background in education, museums, and community history, and is also Humanists UK's Wikimedian in Residence.



Professor A C Grayling is the Founder and Principal of the New College of the Humanities at Northeastern University, London, and its Professor of Philosophy. Among his many books are *The God Argument*, *Democracy and Its Crisis*, *The History of Philosophy*, *The Good State* and *The Frontiers of Knowledge*. He has been a regular contributor to *The Times*, *Guardian*, *Financial Times*, *Independent on Sunday*, *Economist*, *New Statesman*, *Prospect*, and *New European*. He appears frequently on radio and TV, including *Newsnight* and *CNN News*. He is a Vice President of Humanists UK.



Lynn Johnston's background is in community relations, development, and education. She has worked as a Development Officer for the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) for almost five years. Recently, Lynn's work has focused on the promotion of Anti-Bias in Education, with the publication last year of *Bias-busting for Beginners*.



SPEAKERS

Alyson Kilpatrick is Chief Commissioner of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission. studied law at Queen's University Belfast, the Inns of Court School of Law London, and the College of Europe Bruges. She was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1992. In 2008, she returned to the Bar of Northern Ireland. Alyson has extensive experience of litigation in the higher courts in a range of public law and human rights cases with a particular emphasis on cases concerning the protection of individuals' rights.



Laura Lacle is a model, media personality, and humanist campaigner. She regularly speaks out on topics such as freedom of expression, scientific literacy, women's rights, and humanism. She appeared as a guest on topical programmes such *This Week*, *Jeremy Vine*, *Newsnight*, and on *Sky News*, *BBC News*, and many other outlets. In June 2017, she and now husband Eunan O'Kane fought for and won the right to humanist marriage for all couples in Northern Ireland, becoming the first couple to marry two days later. Along with Eunan and several other activists, she won Humanist of the Year in 2018.



Holly Lester is originally from rural Northern Ireland. She first rose to prominence as a DJ, regularly playing for institutions Shine, Chibuku Shake Shake, and The Warehouse Project. She's established herself as a frequent player in London and Belfast, ticking off various European hotspots like Berlin, Amsterdam and Prague in-between. Off the dancefloor, she has become heavily involved in campaigning for the Northern Irish night time economy. In 2021, alongside Boyd Sleator she co-founded Free the Night, a non-profit organisation working tirelessly to try and change the landscape of Northern Ireland nightlife for the better.



Dr Charlie Lynch is a cultural and social historian whose research interests span both sides of the Irish Sea. He is a co-author of a forthcoming intellectual and institutional history, *The Humanist Movement in Britain*, and is at present Research Associate in History at Ulster University, Belfast, pursuing a project entitled 'Queer NI before Liberation'.



Tim McGarry is a comedian, actor, and former lawyer best known for playing the part of Da in the satirical comedy *Give My Head Peace*, which he also co-wrote. His other appearances include various roles in the sketch show *Dry Your Eyes*, as well as other projects with his comedy troupe, the Hole in the Wall Gang, and for hosting the award-winning topical news comedy show *The Blame Game*. A popular stand-up comedian, Tim has been celebrated by critics for being 'sensitive, courageous, excoriating and funny... a comedian of the people, for the people'. He is a patron of Northern Ireland Humanists.



SPEAKERS

Gary McLelland is Chief Executive of Humanists International, joining in February 2017. Before this, he had worked for Humanist Society Scotland since 2013 as Head of Communications and Public Affairs. He has also previously served as a Board member of the European Humanist Federation based in Brussels, as well as a board member of the Scottish Joint Committee on Religious and Moral Education.



Virginia Mendez is the author of *Childhood Unlimited: Parenting beyond the gender bias* and *Mika & Lolo* series of children's books. She is a public speaker and co-founder of The Feminist Shop – an ethical brand that educates on the topic of feminism. *Mika & Lolo* is translated in five languages and is one of the reasons Virginia was recognised as one of the 145 Inspiring Women Leaders of 2020 by Diverse In Globaland.



Matthew Milliken grew up in Northern Ireland as the son of a police officer at the height of the troubles. After receiving his BA (Hons) in Youth and Community Work, he moved to Berlin and gained German state accreditation as a Social Educator. He later returned to Ireland, and was instrumental in the implementation of the Department of Education's Community Relations Equality and Diversity policy. Matthew commenced a PhD research studentship with the UNESCO Centre in 2015. His research explores the impact that education policies have had on teachers and, in particular, the extent to which the deployment pattern of teachers in mainstream schools in Northern Ireland reflects and maintains the enduring community divide.



Colin Murphy is a Belfast-based stand-up comedian, TV presenter, writer, and actor. He has been an almost permanent fixture on television screens for over two decades. He is best known in Northern Ireland as a regular panellist on the award-winning topical news comedy show *The Blame Game*, which has been running since 2005.



Eunan O'Kane is a professional footballer who has played for the Republic of Ireland and Leeds United. In June 2017, he and now wife Laura Lacole won the right to humanist marriage for all couples in Northern Ireland, becoming the first couple to marry two days later. Alongside Laura and several other Northern Ireland Humanists activists, he won Humanist of the Year in 2018.



SPEAKERS

Katie Richardson is a musician, producer, songwriter, and composer working on a wide variety of film, dance, and theatre projects across Ireland and the UK. She has worked with and been commissioned by award-winning companies such as Bafta-winning or Oscar-nominated 'Out of Orbit Films,' The Lyric Theatre, Walk the Plank, and Prime Cut Productions. Katie is the Chair of Safe in Sound – an initiative with a vision to create a safe, strong, and connected creative sector founded on equality, diversity, and respect and to amplify under-represented voices in the music industry.



Dr Adam Rutherford is a scientist, writer, and broadcaster. He's a Lecturer in Biology and Society at UCL, and has written and presented award-winning series and programmes for the BBC, including Radio 4's *Start the Week*, *Inside Science* and *The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry* with Dr Hannah Fry. He's written an indefinable number of books including *A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived*, the very humanist *The Book of Humans*, the *Sunday Times* bestselling *How to Argue With a Racist*, and, most recently, *Control: The Dark History and Troubling Present of Eugenics*, published in February. This Convention is his first appearance as President of Humanists UK.



Dr Meg Schwamb is a lecturer in the Astrophysics Research Centre and the School of Mathematics and Physics at Queen's University Belfast. She is interested in the fundamental questions of how our Solar System and others formed and evolved, as well as exploring the process of planet formation. Her expertise is in big data for planetary astronomy, focusing in particular on studying the small body populations in the Solar System, exploring seasonal processes on Mars, exoplanet detection, and applying citizen science to mine large datasets for Solar System science.



Imtiaz Shams is a tech entrepreneur, human rights activist, and the co-founder of Faith To Faithless, an advocacy group for so-called 'apostates', leaving high-control religions or cults. Imtiaz used his experience to help apostates who suffer when they leave conservative religions. In 2012, he began creating 'underground railroad' networks for Ex-Muslims around the world. He has been featured on the BBC, *Vice*, *Guardian*, and *The Times*. In 2017 he was the first Ex-Muslim ever to speak at an Islamic conference, as he believes religious organisations are important in the fight to tackle apostate discrimination. He is also a trustee of Humanists UK.



SPEAKERS

Boyd Sleator is the Coordinator for Northern Ireland Humanists, the section bringing together all of Humanists UK's members and supporters in Northern Ireland. Before he came to Humanists UK, he was an organiser for events around public understanding of science, and founding chair of the group Atheist NI. He is widely called upon to give talks about humanism in schools and universities, and regularly features on the radio discussing Northern Ireland Humanists' current campaigns and priorities. Boyd is a trainer for both humanist school speakers and Non-Religious Pastoral Care.



Professor Stephen Smartt is Director of the Astrophysics Research Centre, Queen's University Belfast. Born and raised in Belfast, Stephen went to Queen's University to study Physics and Applied Maths, and later pursued a PhD in Astrophysics. After this, he worked in the Canary Islands at the UK's Isaac Newton Group of Telescopes and became a Fellow of the University of Cambridge. Since being appointed Professor of Astrophysics at Queen's in 2005, at age 37, he has gone on to win several major awards, including a European Young Investigator Award, European Research Council Advanced Grant, and the Philip Leverhulme Prize in Astronomy.



Professor Francesca Stavrakopoulou specialises in the ancient cultures in which the biblical texts emerged, as Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Religion at the University of Exeter. Alongside her academic work, she has also made programmes for BBC TV and radio. Her latest book, *God: An Anatomy*, was a BBC Radio 4 Book of the Week, and one of *The Economist's* top books of 2021. It was recently shortlisted for the Wolfson History Prize. Francesca is a patron of Humanists UK.



Pippa Swan is a humanist pastoral carer in Northern Ireland and volunteer for the Non-Religious Pastoral Support Network. Pippa is the one of the first people to have ever provided care in a Northern Ireland prison, and is also the first person in Northern Ireland to study the MA in Existential and Humanist Pastoral Care.



Rachel Taggart-Ryan is Senior Campaigns Officer at Humanists UK, and her work covers a wide range of issues in Public Affairs and Policy, including defending freedom of expression. In this role she leads on the campaign to repeal Northern Ireland's blasphemy laws, which has seen significant progress since its launch in 2019.



SPEAKERS

Eleanor Tiernan is an Irish stand-up comedian and actor, who has performed at venues around the world, with runs at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe – the largest arts festival in the world.



Professor Richard Wiseman holds Britain's only Professorship in the Public Understanding of Psychology at the University of Hertfordshire, and has published over 100 academic papers examining the psychology of magic and illusion, deception, luck and self-development. He has written several popular psychology books (including *The Luck Factor* and *59 Seconds*) that have been published around the world and regularly gives keynote talks to a wide range of organisations.





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