



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

Churchill College
Storeys Way
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The Living Time Machine

Professor Nicky Clayton and Artist-in-Residence Clive Wilkins
Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge

7:30pm, Monday 17th November, 2014
Wolfson Hall Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

The Lecture

Nicky Clayton writes:

Einstein supposedly said "Time only exists to prevent everything from happening at once!"

Although physical time proceeds forever forwards, mental time can travel backwards as well, indeed in every direction.

Mental time travel allows us to re-visit our memories and imagine future scenarios. We make use of this process to define multiple realities; ones that define our sense of self in space and time.

Our cognitive mechanisms for making sense of the world around us are aided and abetted by the patterns and ideas we use in our thinking, the way we choose to see the world around us and, importantly, the objects with which we choose to associate.

We explore these ideas in the Living Time Machine lecture.

About the Speakers:

Nicky Clayton is the Professor of Comparative Cognition and a University Teaching Officer in the Department of Psychology at Cambridge University, and a Fellow of Clare College. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2010. Her expertise as a scientist lies in the contemporary study of how animals and children think. This work has led to a re-evaluation of the cognitive capacities of animals, particularly birds, and resulted in a theory that intelligence evolved independently in at least two distantly related groups, the apes and the crows. She has also pioneered new procedures for the experimental study of memory and imagination in animals, investigating its relationship to human memory and consciousness, and how and when these abilities develop in young children. In addition to scientific research and teaching, she is a dancer, specializing in tango and salsa. She is also Scientist in Residence at the Rambert Dance Company, collaborating with Mark Baldwin, the Artistic Director, on new choreographic works inspired by science (Comedy of Change, 2009; Seven For A Secret Never

To Be Told, 2011; What Wild Ecstasy, 2012). She has appeared on BBC television and radio on numerous occasions.

Her most recent collaboration with artist Clive Wilkins arose out of their mutual interest in imagination, and its consequences for consciousness, identity and memory. They also regularly dance tango together.

Clive Wilkins works as a fine art painter and has exhibited widely, including at the National Portrait Gallery, London, on several occasions. He has also exhibited at the Royal Academy and in private galleries in Cork Street, London – where he had a one man show in 2007. His work can be found in public and private collections. Clive has produced portraits of Sir Howard Hodgkin and Sir Peter Blake amongst others and has been presented publicly to HRH Princess Royal. He is currently Artist in Residence in the Department of Psychology, University of Cambridge.

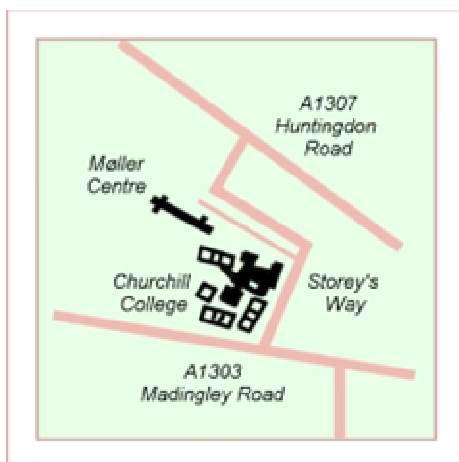
His writing and paintings have been in print on numerous occasions, most notably in his published work 'The Creatures in the Night', a story written and lavishly illustrated by Wilkins in 2008.

His current project, 'Moustachio', is a novel in four parts, of which parts 1,2 & 3 are complete and due to be published in the Autumn of 2014 by 'Wind on the Wire'. The 'Moustachio' quartet ['Caruso', 'Zapik', 'Mannikin' and 'Eissenstrom'] seeks to explore imagination and questions aspects of consciousness and reality amidst the miasma of being.

He is a performer and magician and particularly interested in the nature of illusion and the psychology of perception, and the methods we adopt to make sense of a strange world.

He currently lives in the heart of England. In his spare time he is a teacher, flautist, origamist and tango dancer.

Practical Matters



Those attending the CSAR lecture may park in the Senior Car Park on Churchill Road, which is off Storey's Way. More parking is available further along Churchill Road, and in the Møller Centre at the far end.

CSAR lectures are open to all; CSAR members are admitted free. Pupils and students may register for free membership at the lecture reception desk.

Non-members are asked to make a nominal contribution of £3.00.

Coffee and biscuits are available in the Wolfson

Foyer from around 7pm.

For further directions, see: www.chu.cam.ac.uk/about/visitors/directions.php