Question time: Bringing Bristol academics, MPs and policymakers together
11th October 2019, 16.00-18.30

Panel profile: Thangam Debbonaire, MP Bristol West

Thangam was elected in May 2015 and saw a large increase in her majority in June 2017. She was Shadow Minister for Culture, Media and Sport in 2016, and re-joined the shadow front bench in October 2016 as Labour Whip, a role she still holds, following treatment for breast cancer. She worked to end domestic violence for 25 years before becoming an MP. Thangam chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Refugees and initiated a cross-party inquiry into experiences of new refugees in the UK. She took part in the ground-breaking and controversial Bristol-based BBC One documentary series Drugsland in 2017. Other interests include women’s equality, arts and culture, the environment and climate change, autism, and Britain’s relationship with Europe. In Bristol, Thangam is working to tackle effects of the housing crisis, on preserving and strengthening the cultural scene, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Panel profile: Adwoa Webber, Head of Clinical Effectiveness, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group

Adwoa is Head of Clinical Effectiveness at Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (BNSSG CCG). She has an engineering background and has worked in the NHS for over 20 years in various roles including audit, workforce development and equalities. Adwoa has spent the last nine years working in service improvement in commissioning in Bristol and has a wealth of experience in developing services and ways of working in primary and secondary care. She has a keen interest in evaluation and also how ideas and good practice get spread and adopted and is the CCG representative on the Bristol Health Partners Executive Group.

Panel profile: Chris Hale, Head of Welsh Government Office for Science

Chris has spent 33 years as a civil servant supporting Ministers under the Welsh Office, and following devolution, in the Welsh Government. Chris has worked on policy areas including Rural Development and Business & Environment; and was for a time Head of Energy Efficiency and Small Scale Renewable policy. More recently Chris supported the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales as Head of Endemic Animal Disease Policy and Animal Health Framework. Following the EU Referendum Chris worked on assessing the potential impacts and opportunities of Brexit for Wales. Chris started his current role as Head of Welsh Government Office for Science in January 2017.

Panel profile: Carla Denyer, Councillor for Clifton Down, Bristol City Council

Carla is a Green Party councillor in Bristol. In 2018 she proposed the first Climate Emergency motion in Europe, committing Bristol to go carbon neutral by 2030. This started a wave of similar motions across the country, with over 200 local authorities, plus the UK Parliament and Scottish and Welsh governments, having now declared a Climate Emergency. Before entering politics, Carla worked as an engineer in the renewable energy industry, specialising in offshore and onshore wind technology. She is the Green Party parliamentary candidate for Bristol West and was also a candidate in the 2019 European Elections.
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Speaker profile: Professor Daniela Schmidt (16.40)
Daniela Schmidt is a Professor of Palaeobiology and Research Director for the Faculty of Sciences. Her research focuses on the response of marine ecosystems to climate change. A research highlight was the characterisation of the unprecedented rate of change of past intervals of rapid environmental change and the biotic response to these changes. She was a lead author of the 5th IPCC report WGII in the Ocean chapter, a number of Marine Climate Impact Partnership Reports, and an Expert Group Member of EU SAPEA (Science Advice for Policy by European Academies) of the European Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) on the topic "Food from the Oceans". She currently leads the IPCCs chapter on regional impacts of climate change in Europe for the 6th IPCC assessment.

Speaker profile: Professor Marcus Munafò (16.55)
Marcus Munafò is Professor of Biological Psychology and Programme Lead within the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit. Together with Angela Attwood and Olivia Maynard, he leads the Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group (http://www.bristol.ac.uk/psychology/research/brain/targ/). His research interests focus on causal influences on and consequences of health behaviours, using approaches that include epidemiology, human laboratory studies, and field trials. He is also interested in how current incentive structures within science shape the behaviour of scientists and have an impact on the quality of published work. He recently, together with colleagues from Cardiff, Oxford, Imperial College and Edinburgh, established the UK Reproducibility Network (www.ukrn.org).

Speaker profile: Dr Genevieve Lively (17.10)
Genevieve Lively is a Reader in Classics and a Turing Fellow. She has particular research interests in ancient narratives and in narrative theories (both ancient and modern), and their impact on AI. She has recently completed a monograph for OUP’s Classics in Theory series on Narratology and have published two books on Ovid: A Reader’s Guide to Ovid’s Metamorphoses and Ovid’s Love Songs. She also co-edited Elegy and Narratology: Fragments of Story. She has also worked on the classical tradition, chaos theory, and cyborgs.

Speaker profile: Professor Anastasios Sextos (17.25)
Anastasios Sextos (www.asextos.net) is a Professor of Earthquake Engineering at the University of Bristol, UK which he joined in 2015 after 12 years at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He is Head of the Earthquake and Geotechnical Engineering Research Group, Academic co-Lead for the design and delivery of the new £12million Soil-Foundation-Structure Interaction (SoFSI) Facility (built in the framework of the UK Collaboratorium for Research on Infrastructure and Cities (UKCRIC), and founding and current Director of the MSc programme in Earthquake Engineering and Infrastructure Resilience.

Chair: Dr Patricia Gayá
Patricia Gayá is Director of PolicyBristol. Her own research interests are the development of individual, collective, and societal capacities to imagine, articulate, and pursue possibilities for social change and alternative futures. Her research explores how, within contexts characterised by systemic complexity, we might usefully invoke, prefigure, and experiment in the present with radical imaginaries and forms of action that seek to challenge hegemonic regimes, particularly those that systematically perpetuate inequalities and various forms of oppression and ecological destruction. She is passionate about supporting and promoting research that makes a positive difference.