

09
15

Lecture Theatre 1

Welcome talk

KEYNOTE

In conversation with...

James Coomarasamy

James Coomarasamy currently presents The World Tonight on BBC Radio 4 and Newshour on the World Service. Having been a correspondent in Warsaw, Paris and Washington, he'll bring his expertise in international news to this fascinating talk.



KEYNOTE

In conversation with...

Jane Bradley

Jane Bradley is the UK investigative correspondent for The New York Times. She is a Pulitzer and three-time Orwell Prize finalist. Her work focuses on abuses of power, national security, crime and social injustices.



PANEL

Front row seat: TV, movies and celebrity

Take your seat as our panel brings you the lowdown on news, interviews and reaction in the entertainment and arts world. From magazines and TV to online and social media, we'll go behind the scenes of the glitziest roles in journalism.

Henry Calvert (content creator), Katelyn Mensah (Radio Times), Debbie Ridgard (Sky News), Iona Macrobert (HELLO!) (right)

KEYNOTE

In conversation with...

Maryam Moshiri

Maryam Moshiri is a chief presenter at BBC News. With a background in business news, she now hosts The World Today, covering global news and culture. Never shy of a viral moment, beyond the headlines she has informed us of the biggest stories of recent years.



PANEL

Digging deep: conducting a killer investigation

Investigations are at the heart of journalism, and our panel has years of experience doing them. They'll give advice on how to navigate this complex but vital field.

Catrin Nye (BBC News), Vicky Gayle (Freelance), Kirti Dubey (BBC News), Julian Sturdy (UEA) (above right)

PANEL

Just made it in the media

How do I get onto a grad scheme? What's it like working in a national newsroom? Do I need to do a masters? Hear from our top team of graduates about those all important first steps into the industry.

Henry Durand (Eastern Daily Press), Daisy Eastlake (The Times), Olivia Lee (Freelance), Ben Morris (BBC News)

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Bookable Room 1

PANEL

Getting to know the patch on your doorstep

From knowing which issues are important to your area to keeping up your contacts book, local reporting can take you from the village fete to a murder scene all in one day.

Anuska Banerjee (Daily Gazette), Ian Clarke (Eastern Daily Press), Maddy McNivern (ITV Anglia), Amy Blunt (BBC Radio Norfolk)

PANEL

Storytelling outside of journalism

The skills you develop as a student journalist will set you up for whatever you do next. Our comms, content, marketing and PR experts, all with journalism experience, will tell you how they turned their narrative crafting abilities into careers.

Emily Fairchild (UEA), Jessica Frank-Keyes (Best for Britain), Karen Hindle (Norfolk and Norwich Hospital), Pippa Lain-Smith (Plain Speaking PR)

PANEL

Reporting from the eye of the storm

A career in news isn't always an easy life, so what happens on those days when everything hits all at once, or when you're reporting from the heart of the biggest story?

Jim Reed (BBC News), Megan Harwood-Baynes (The Times), Bernie Choudhury (Eastern Eye and UEA), Amelia Hansford (right)

PANEL

Culture, connection, and storytelling

Culture and lifestyle writing are key features of many student publications. With expertise spanning books, film, feminism, the internet, cultural commentary and much more, our panelists will give you tips on how to craft the best pieces you can.

Ben Falk (City St George's), Shahed Ezyaydi (Freelance), Elle Hunt (The Guardian)

PANEL

Casinos, cocoa and Bloomberg private schools: why everything is a business story

Learn how Bloomberg reporters cover issues from energy to politics, immigration to deep investigations.

Alyssa McDonald, Tiwa Adebayo, Harry Black, Rose Henderson (Bloomberg)

TALK

Rubbing shoulders with royalty

Recently binged The Crown and wondered what season seven would look like in a decade's time? Been intrigued by recent headlines and fancy hearing the inside track on 'The Firm'? Go behind closed doors with royal reporter Rebecca Russell to find out all this and more.

Rebecca Russell (Daily Express)

Bookable Room 5

WORKSHOP

SPA coffee morning

Not all networking needs to feel awkward. This informal coffee morning is a chance to meet other student journalists, share ideas, talk through challenges, and make connections in a relaxed, friendly setting.

You must have a booked space to attend this workshop.

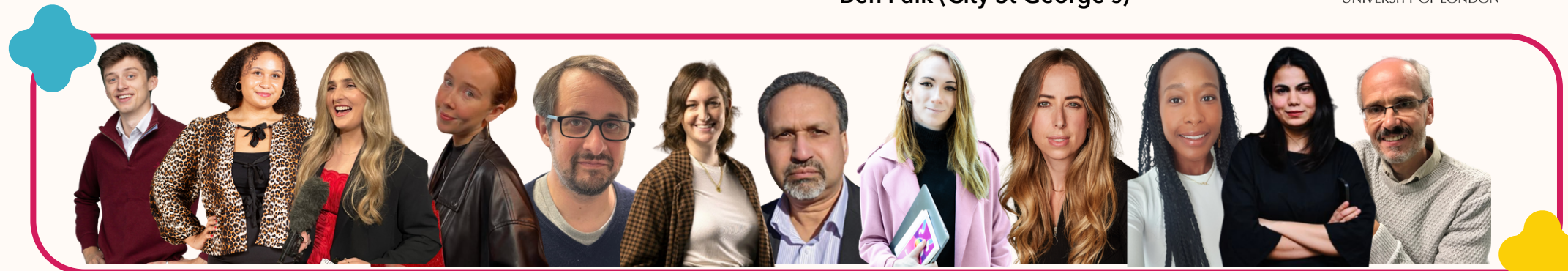
WORKSHOP

Finding and applying for jobs no-one knows about

If you've got your eyes set on a journalism job after graduation, this interactive workshop will give you all the insider knowledge you need to succeed.

Jem Collins (JournoResources)

You must have a booked space to attend this workshop.



WORKSHOP

How to run your team

Running a student newsroom or publication team is one of the hardest - and most rewarding - parts of student media. This session tackles the realities of leadership: motivating volunteers, managing workload, handling conflict, delegating effectively, and keeping standards high without burning everyone out.

Emma Penney, Oisín McGilloway (SPA)

You must have a booked space to attend this workshop.

MASTERCLASS

Beyond tick boxes: high impact D&I journalism

Barnie Choudhury challenges you to think differently about your journalism, ensuring it's accurate, ethical and that your use of language and portrayal of authentic stories strike the right balance.

Barnie Choudhury (Eastern Eye and UEA)



Bookable Room 6

Saturday

MASTERCLASS

Red carpet fever: why the Oscars is more important than Westminster

A masterclass on celebrity press days and red carpet events, teaching you how to maximise your junket time with Ryan Gosling and get those killer quotes about where Meryl Streep puts her awards.

Ben Falk (City St George's)



Swap shop, careers fair, and lunch

WORKSHOP

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PANEL

Beyond the scoreboard: reporting on sport and fitness

Step behind the scenes of sport and fitness journalism and explore how to turn everything from football matches to running and fitness trends into compelling stories.

Hannah Bradfield (Women's Health), Joe Harston (The Times), Lily Canter (Freelance)

PANEL

Finessing your features

Features writing requires different skills to those found in hard news. On this panel, our speakers will examine this style of journalism, pass on the tricks of the trade, and give you the inside track on how to craft a stand-out feature.

Rhi Storer (New Statesman), Samantha Mayling (Travel Weekly Group), Lauren Shirreff (The Telegraph), Almara Abgarian (Jam Press and Metro)

Doors open for awards from 18:45 in The LCR!

Followed by 'The Late Edition' after-party in Blue Bar (downstairs from the LCR)

Lecture Theatre 1

PANEL

Flying solo: freelancing FAQs and FYIs

Thinking about going freelance? This session will provide insider insights and real-world advice on navigating the challenges and opportunities of freelancing—whether you're just starting out or looking to grow your portfolio.

Celina Bledowska, Michaela Makusha, Jem Collins (right)

KEYNOTE

In conversation with... Eliot Higgins

Eliot Higgins is the founder of Bellingcat, a pioneering investigative collective known for its work in open-source investigations, ranging from the shooting down of flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine to police violence in Colombia and the illegal wildlife trade in the UAE. It has advanced open-source methods in journalism, justice and accountability.



AGM and lunch

Could you be the SPA's next Chair, Conference & Events Officer, Communications Officer, Training & Opportunities Officer, Sponsorship Officer or Membership Officer? Well, you can run for any of those roles at our AGM, where you'll also be able to vote on motions to change the SPA and elect a new charity trustee. This is also where lunch will be served.

Find out more about the available roles on page 7.

PANEL

Inside the world of Westminster

Our panel of political reporters will take you inside the world of Whitehall, giving you the inside scoop on how to navigate life in the lobby.

Annabelle Dickson (Politico), Max Kendix (The Times), Zoë Crowther (PoliticsHome) (right)

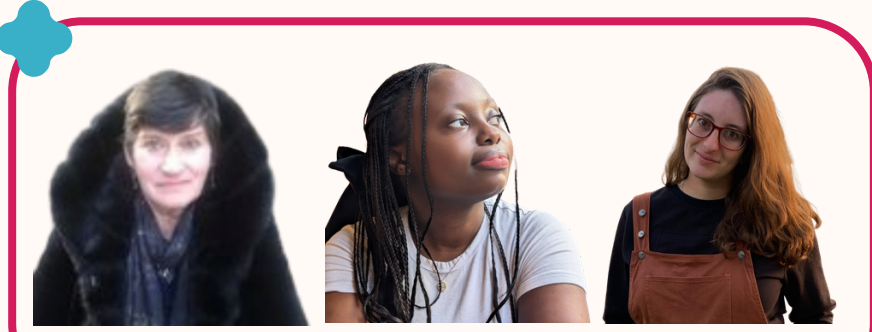
KEYNOTE

In conversation with... Patrick Wintour

Diplomatic Editor and former Political Editor at The Guardian, Patrick Wintour brings his wide expertise in British politics, international affairs and global foreign policy to close #SPANC26.



Bookable Room 1



TALK

The campaigns behind PLMR the headlines: PR in Westminster

How do communications campaigns influence political debate in Westminster? This session offers a behind-the-scenes look at how strategic PR and media engagement shape the news agenda, and how communications teams work with journalists to influence the political conversation in a fast-moving Westminster environment.

Sara Ghaffari, Niamh Mercer Danher (PLMR)



AGM agenda

Bookable Room 5

ONE-TO-ONE

Sparkling your CV

A good CV can be what gets you into the room and onto the career ladder for your future in journalism. Bring or submit your CV, come along to the SPA clinic, and we'll go through it with a fine tooth comb.

You must have a booked space to attend this workshop.

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Full guide to the AGM



Bookable Room 6

MASTERCLASS

Interview an MP with Terry Jermy

Terry Jermy unseated Liz Truss, but what makes him tick? The MP for South West Norfolk is trading the Commons for the conference, and throwing himself to the mercy of some plucky student journalists. If you fancy yourself as the next Jeremy Paxman, now's your chance!



MASTERCLASS

Gangsters, drugs and dirty money: a masterclass in organised crime investigations

In this gripping masterclass, Chris Matthews draws on years of experience covering gang conflicts, drug networks and international criminal operations to reveal how major investigations are built from the ground up.

Chris Matthews (Freelance)



TALK

Getting your view across: writing compelling columns

In this talk Mariam Khan, editor of essay collection 'It's Not About the Burqa' and former i columnist, will give the lowdown on how to write eye-opening columns and personal essays.

Mariam Khan (Freelance)

Sunday

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