#### CELEBRATING TOM McLEISH

**A three-day workshop to celebrate the academic work of Tom McLeish**

**Monday 2nd September 2024 – Wednesday 4th September 2024**

**Calman Learning Centre, Durham University**

This workshop will celebrate the academic work, and legacy of Tom McLeish (1962-2023).

Tom worked in many different fields, crossing disciplinary boundaries and encouraging us to engage with one another. This meeting held in his honour will cover several of his main fields of study:

* Polymer Physics and Rheology
* Physics of Life
* The Science-Humanities Interface

The academic sessions will be held in the Calman Learning Centre (Rosemary Cramp lecture theatre [CLC202] ), with refreshments served in Derman Christopherson room (CLC406) and Kingsley Barrett room (CLC407).

The conference dinner will be held on Tuesday 3 September in St Mary’s College, Elvet Hill Road, Durham, DH1 3LR. Drinks reception and welcome from 18.45pm.

**Conference Organising Committee**

Professor Colin Bain (Durham University)

Professor Mike Cates (University of Cambridge)

Professor Giles Gasper (Durham University)

Professor Mark Leake (University of York)

Professor Daniel Read (University of Leeds)

Revd Professor David Wilkinson (Durham University)

**Programme**

**Day 1 – Polymer Physics and Rheology**

**Monday 2nd September 2024**

Chair: Professor Mike Cates FRS (University of Cambridge)

**Registration** *from 9.45am- CLC406*

10.35am **Welcome** – Mike Cates FRS (University of Cambridge)

10.45am Peter Olmsted (Georgetown University) **-** *A molecular description of the polymer glass transition*

11.25am Charley Schaefer (University of York) -  *Noise, Information and Evolution of Biological Sticky Polymers*

12.05pm Tim Lodge (University of Minnesota) *- Dynamics of miscible polymer mixtures: the chemistry matters*

12.45pm – 13.45pm *Lunch*

13.45pm Scott Milner (Penn State) - *Using simulations to predict miscibility*

14.25pm Lynn Walker (University of Minnesota) - *Mechanically-accelerated chemical degradation of entangled linear rubbery polymer melts*

15.05pm Jaap den Doelder (University of Technology, Eindhoven) - *Value from waste - the many faces of polyethylene*

15.45pm-16.15pm *Refreshments*

16.15pm Denise Li (University of Edinburgh) - *SOFI CDT: A PhD journey like no other*

16.55pm Ron Larson (University of Michigan) - *Multi-scale Modeling of Rheology, Processing, and Crystallization of Polyethylene*

17.35pm CLOSE

**Programme**

**Day 2 – Physics of Life**

**Tuesday 3rd September 2024**

Chair: Professor Mark Leake (University of York)

**Registration** *from 9.00am- CLC406*

9.35am **Welcome** – Mark Leake (University of York)

9.40am Rhoda Hawkins (University of Sheffield (AIMS, Ghana) - *From single molecules to host-pathogen cell interactions*

10.20am Bhavin Khatri (Imperial College, London) - *Measuring the bending friction of DNA and consequences for polymer dynamics and looping time predictions*

11.00am – 11.30am *Refreshments*

11.30am Tanniemola Liverpool (University of Bristol) - *Active Polymers in Biology*

12.10pm Sheena Radford (University of Leeds) - *Watching the structural evolution of a protein into amyloid: A feat of folding*

12.50pm – 13.50pm *Lunch*

13.50pm Philip Nelson (University of Pennsylvania) - *"Loved into being": Tom's pragmatic view of the philosophy and practice of physics.*

14.30pm Hannah Smithson (University of Oxford) - *Adventurous paths in sensory neuroscience: Refreshing visual input via fixational eye movements*

15.10pm – 15.40pm *Refreshments*

15.40pm Rivka Isaacson (King’s College, London) - *Biophysics of Proteostasis in the Crowded Cell*

16.20pm Sarah Harris (University of Sheffield) - *Why the most exciting new physics is biology*

17.00pm-17.20pm Break

17.20pm – 18.20pm Wilson Poon (The University of Edinburgh) – *“The most beautiful book in Scotland – what a physicist has done with a medieval manuscript”*

18.20pm Transfer to St. Mary’s College

**18.45pm Pre-Dinner Drinks Reception** – Kenworthy Hall

**19.30pm Conference Dinner**

**Programme**

**Day 3 – The Science-Humanities Interface**

**Wednesday 4th September 2024**

Chair: Revd Professor David Wilkinson, ECLAS, Durham University

**Registration** *from 8.30am - CLC406*

9.00am – 10.00am Alister McGrath (University of Oxford) – Keynote talk

10.00am – 10.15am *Refreshments*

10.15am Amanda Rees (University of York) - *So, how do you do interdisciplinarity? The 'Tom McLeish turn'*

10.45am Giles Gasper (Durham University) - *Putting Things in Perspective: The Ordered Universe, Optics, and One-Lens Telescopes*

11.15am Thoko Kamwendo (Durham University) - *Up points the spire of the steeple: researching Christian church leaders' views on science*

11.45am – 12.00pm *break*

12.00pm – 1.00pm Panel Discussion

13.00pm – 14.00pm *Lunch*

14.00pm **Close**

Further Information

Venues:

1. Calman Learning Centre, University Science Site, Stockton Road, Durham DH1 3LE

CLC202, Rosemary Cramp Lecture Theatre – **Academic sessions**

CLC406, Derman Christopherson room – **Registration, Catering (Refreshments/Lunch)**

CLC407, Kingsley Barrett room – Books showcase / Lunch space/ breakout room

1. St Mary’s College, Elvet Hill Road, Durham, DH1 3LR.

Kenworthy Hall, St. Mary’s College - **Pre-Dinner Drinks Reception**

St. Mary’s Dining Room - Conference Dinner

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**Books available on Display**

Delegates can order directly from the OUP website: [Oxford University Press / Tom McLeish](https://global.oup.com/academic/search?q=Professor+Tom+McLeish&cc=gb&lang=en)

**Soft Matter: A Very Short Introduction**

£8.99

Tom McLeish

**The Poetry and Music of Science**

**Comparing Creativity in Science and Art**

£15.49

Tom McLeish

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Tom McLeish

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**Total Solar Eclipses in Science, History, Literature, and the Arts**

£25.00

Henrike Lange, Tom McLeish

**The Scientific Works of Robert Grosseteste, Volume I**

**Knowing and Speaking: Robert Grosseteste's De artibus liberalibus 'On the Liberal Arts' and De generatione sonorum 'On the Generation of Sounds'**

£187.50

Giles E. M. Gasper, Cecilia Panti, Tom McLeish, Hannah E. Smithson

**The Scientific Works of Grosseteste, Volume II**

**Mapping the Universe: Robert Grosseteste's De sphera 'On the Sphere'**

£160.00

Giles E. M. Gasper, Tom C. B. McLeish, Sigbjørn Olsen Sønnesyn, Hannah E. Smithson