

Foundation Future Leaders Conference 2021 - Programme

Session 1: 22nd November 09:30 – 11:00

The State of the State - Creating new frameworks to deliver change

The challenges faced by the UK going forward include tackling climate change and reaching Net Zero, rebuilding after Covid-19 and reducing inequality. Can we achieve these within current structures? Are capitalism, GDP growth and the system of international trade fit for purpose to deliver these? How does Government need to change to deal with these 21st Century challenges - and can Parliament really hold them to account?

Chair: **Dr Mariastefania de Vido**, Research Scientist, Central Laser Facility, STFC, and Foundation Future Leader

Speakers and Panellists

Dr George Dibb, Head of the Centre for Economic Justice, Institute for Public Policy Research

Rt Hon Greg Clark MP, Chair of the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee

Dr Sarah L Roberts, Chemistry Industrial Partnership Manager, University of Bristol, and Foundation Future Leader

Dr Alex Poulton, Deputy Director, Academic Lead (Heriot Watt University), Lyell Centre for Earth and Marine Science, Heriot Watt University, and Foundation Future Leader.

Session 2: 22nd November 11:30 – 13:00

Is Net Zero by 2050 (or earlier) realisable?

The Global Climate Change conference, COP26, takes place in the first half of November, and the UK has committed to reaching Net Zero emissions of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Is this goal realisable? And what would it take to make it happen?

Chair: **Dr Sandy Knowles**, Associate Professor in Nuclear Materials, University of Birmingham, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow & RAEng As. Research Fellow, and FST Foundation Future Leader.

Speakers and Panellists

Baroness Brown of Cambridge (Professor Dame Julia King), House of Lords and Chair of the Adaptation Committee of the UK Climate Change Committee

Dr Doug Parr, Chief Scientist and Policy Director, Greenpeace UK

Dr Delphine Byford, Defence Equipment & Support, Ministry of Defence, and Foundation Future Leader

Balazs Csuvár, Head of Delivery, DG Cities, and Foundation Future Leader

Session 3: 23rd November 09:30 – 11:00

An inclusive and diverse workforce with the right skills

Success in the challenges of the 21st century mean that we need talented people working in research and development. But are some people excluded from taking up or succeeding in careers in science and technology – either through educational disadvantage or through the jobs themselves? What more can be done to make careers in science and technology more equal, diverse and inclusive? And as technology is changing rapidly, how can we ensure that the UK continues to have the right skills in the workforce?

Chair: **Dr Neil Gaspar**, Academic Outreach Manager, AWE, and Foundation Future Leader

Speakers and Panellists

Dr Hayaatun Sillem, Chief Executive, Royal Academy of Engineering

Professor Melanie Welham, Executive Chair, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

Nick Bennett, Independent Safety & Environmental Auditor, Defence Equipment & Support, Ministry of Defence, and Foundation Future Leader

Louise Sanger, Applied Research and Outreach Manager, Lloyd's Register Foundation, and Foundation Future Leader

Session 4: 23rd November 11:30 – 13:00

Innovating for change and a sustainable future

How can innovation drive some of the changes we need? How can business drive new innovations? What is the role of government and its agencies in supporting this (through funding, regulation, public procurement, and new structures)?

Chair: **Rory Miles**, Innovation Fellow, Centre for Enzyme Innovation, University of Portsmouth, and Foundation Future Leader

Speakers and Panellists

Indro Mukerjee, Chief Executive, Innovate UK

Dr Peter Waggett, Director, IBM Research, UK

Vicky Newman, Communications Manager, Matrix, Northern Ireland, and Foundation Future Leader

Dan Veal, Programme Manager, National Physical Laboratory, and Foundation Future Leader