

EVENING LECTURE-DISCUSSIONS 2005

**Colet House
151 Talgarth Road
London W14
(Tube: Baron's Court)**

7.00 - 9.00 p.m.

**16th February
Karen Armstrong**

**3rd May
Dr. Marilyn Schlitz**

**6th September
Jonathon Porritt**

**8th November
Dr. Leonard Shlain**



16th February 2005, Chair: Lord Rees-Mogg



Karen Armstrong:

Fundamentalism: the Fear and the Rage

During the 20th century, a militant piety developed in every single one of the major world religions, representing a widespread rebellion against the hegemony of secular modernity. Fundamentalists seek to drag God/Religion from the sidelines to which they have been relegated in a modern society and back to centre stage. All believe that they are fighting for survival and that the liberal, secular establishment wants to wipe out religion. The lecture will focus the reasons for this fear, the threat posed by modernity, and the implications for the future.

Karen Armstrong spent seven years as a Roman Catholic nun in the 1960s, but then left her teaching order in 1969 to study English Literature at the University of Oxford. In 1982, she became a full time writer and broadcaster. Her books include: *Holy War, The Crusades and their Impact on Today's World* [1988]; *Muhammad, A Biography of the Prophet* [1991]; *A History of God* [1993], which became an international bestseller; *The Battle for God, A History of Fundamentalism* [2000]; *Islam, A Short History* [2000]; and *Buddha* [2000]. Her books have been translated into forty languages. Since September 11th, however, she has become chiefly known for her work on Islam and Fundamentalism, particularly in the United States. *Islam* and *The Battle for God* immediately became national best-sellers there, and she was given more time on the American media than almost any other scholar in the field. She has addressed members of the United States Congress on three occasions, has participated in the World Economic Forum in New York and Davos, and was one of three scholars invited to speak in the United Nations in the first session ever devoted to religion in that body.

3rd May 2005, Chair: Dr. Peter Fenwick

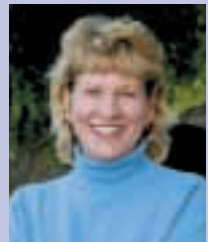
Dr. Marilyn Schlitz

Consciousness and Healing (Book Launch)

Consciousness and Healing: Integral Approaches to Mind-Body

Medicine is a collection of 47 essays on integral medicine, consciousness, and healing that integrates mainstream medical knowledge with recent developments in the emerging areas of frontier sciences and insights from alternative healing perspectives. Integral medicine embraces the recognition that human beings possess emotional, spiritual, and relational dimensions that are essential in the diagnosis and treatment of disease and the cultivation of wellness. The book calls on

healthcare consumers and professionals alike to re-evaluate and revision the underpinnings and belief systems that support the current medical model. Marilyn Schlitz will present an overview of recent developments in the Consciousness and Healing field in the US.



Marilyn Schlitz, Ph.D. is Vice President for Research and Education at the Institute of Noetic Sciences and Senior Scientist at the Research Institute at the California Pacific Medical Center. She has published over 200 articles in the area of consciousness studies, has conducted research at Stanford University, Science Applications International Corporation, the Institute for Parapsychology, and the Mind Science Foundation, has taught at Trinity University, Stanford University and Harvard Medical School. She is co-editor of the new book *Consciousness and Healing*.

6th September 2005, Chair: Sir Crispin Tickell

Jonathon Porritt:

Sustainable Development: Science-Based - Values-Driven

Sustainable development is unique amongst all those 'big ideas' jostling for political space. Its starting point is an uncompromising reaffirmation of the "laws of nature" and the need for humankind to constrain its material aspirations within the limits those laws mandate. But the real power of sustainable development lies at least as much in its radically different 'offer' to citizens in today's rich world, based on restraint, empathy, social justice, intergenerational equity and an unshamed celebration of the natural world.



Jonathon Porritt, CBE, Co-Founder and Programme Director of Forum for the Future, is an eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator on sustainable development. Jonathon was appointed by the Prime Minister as Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission in July 2000. This is the Government's principal source of independent advice across the whole sustainable development agenda. In addition, he is Co-Director of The Prince of Wales's Business and Environment Programme which runs Senior Executives' Seminars in Cambridge, Salzburg, South Africa and the USA. He was formerly Director of Friends of the Earth (1984-90) and chairman of UNED-UK (1993-96). His most recent book is '*Playing Safe: Science and the Environment*'.

8th November 2005, Chair: Claudia Nielsen



Dr. Leonard Shlain:

Sex, Time and Power: How Women's Sexuality Shaped Human Evolution

Why did big-brained *Homo Sapiens* suddenly emerge some 150,000 years ago? Leonard Shlain argues that profound alterations in female sexuality hold the key to this mystery. Long ago, due to the narrowness of her bipedal pelvis and the increasing size of her infants' heads, the human female began to experience high childbirth death rates, precipitating a crisis for the species.

Natural selection adapted her to this unique environmental stress by drastically reconfiguring her hormonal reproductive cycle. Her estrus disappeared and menses mysteriously entrained with the periodicity of the moon. Women formulated the concept of a month, which in turn allowed them to make the connection between sex and pregnancy. Upon learning the majestic secret of time these ancestral females then gained the power to refuse sex when they were ovulating. Men were forced to confront women who possessed a mind of their own.

Dr. Leonard Shlain MD is the Chairman of Laparoscopic surgery at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and is an Associate Professor of Surgery at UCSF. He is also the author of three critically acclaimed, national best-selling, award-winning books: *Art & Physics: Parallel Visions in Space, Time, and Light*, *The Alphabet Versus The Goddess: The Conflict Between Word and Image*, and *Sex Time and Power: How Women's Sexuality Shaped Human Evolution*. Dr. Shlain has been a keynote speaker for such diverse groups as the Smithsonian, Harvard University, Florence Academy of Art, Salk Institute, Phillips collection, Los Alamos National Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center, and the European Union's Ministers of Culture. He is presently working on a book entitled *Leonardo's Brain: The Right/Left Roots of Creativity* due to be published in 2005.

Booking Form

Evening Lecture Discussions

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Tickets cost £10 in advance for members of the SMN and £12 for non-members. Price on the night will be £12.

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CANCELLATIONS

A fee of £5 per ticket will be retained. No refunds within a week before each lecture.

THE ORGANISER

The Scientific and Medical Network is an informal international group consisting of qualified scientists and doctors, psychologists, engineers, philosophers, psychologists and other professionals. The Network came into existence in 1973 and has Members in more than 50 countries. It questions the assumptions of contemporary scientific and medical thinking and seeks to reach beyond a materialistic world-view. See www.scimednet.org

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