Related project summaries

What does it mean to be human in 2017? The world we thought we knew suddenly seems unfamiliar, but what exactly have we lost? What might we have found in the process? We are about to find out as the School of Advanced Study at the University of London, unveils the programme for its annual Being Human festival of the humanities.

To see a full digital copy of the programme, please click here.

If you are interested in covering the Being Human festival, please contact our press officer Maureen McTaggart
Maureen.McTaggart@sas.ac.uk | 0207 862 8859

Sleep: Lost and Found (p35)
University of Manchester

Struggling to get a good night’s rest? You’re not alone. Bring your family to a fun-packed weekend of sleep themed activities at the Manchester Museum where you can test out your sleep knowledge, design your ideal bedroom, and get top tips from a range of sleep experts to improve your rest. Sleep historians from the University of Manchester will introduce you to the ‘golden age’ of sleep, while sleep nutritionists and staff from The Children’s Sleep Charity will be on hand to help you design a brand new set of bedtime routines.

Saturday 25 November – Sunday 26 November 11:00–16:00
Manchester Museum, Manchester

Sovereignties of Birmingham (p49)
University of Birmingham

It was one of the most searched words on Google last year, but what exactly is sovereignty? Is it taking back control? Is it legitimacy? How does it shape our local and national history, past, present and future? Join us for a series of talks that explore this topical notion through the lens of Birmingham, the city where Theresa May gave her 2016 Brexit speech in support of reclaiming sovereignty back from the EU.

Sunday 19 November 13:00–14:00, Monday 20 November 15:30–17:00
MAC Birmingham, Birmingham and Edgbaston Campus, University of Birmingham, Birmingham

British Wrestling: History and Resurgence (p41)
De Montfort University

In 1988, after its cancellation on ITV, it seemed that British wrestling had died. Recently, however, there has begun an unlikely resurgence. British wrestling now leads the world; shows sell out in minutes, local athletes are admired worldwide. This event charts the fall and rise of the sport through a collection of artistic encounters – a training workshop, a discussion event, and two wrestling matches, with responses from artists, scholars and fans.

Sunday 19 November 18:00–20:00
Attenborough Arts Centre, Leicester

Finding through Feeling (p69)
The Foundling Museum

This handling session offers visitors a unique opportunity to hold and examine a selection of objects mirroring those in the Museum’s collection, including tokens and children’s clothing. Led by Janette Bright, researcher for our exhibition Basic Instincts, you’ll gain a deeper insight into the plight of mothers who were forced by circumstance to give up their babies to the Foundling Hospital.

Saturday 18 November 13:00–16:00
The Foundling Museum, London

Sensing the Past (p34)
University of Chester

Join experts at this series of events exploring the history of our senses. Discover Dr John Hope’s botanical teaching sensorium and investigate how people learned about plants in the late 18th century, join a virtual foraging expedition, and learn how prehistoric people used their sense of taste to navigate their landscapes. You can also record and share your sounds of contemporary Chester on Twitter by using #soundsofchester.

Wednesday 22 November 18:00–19:30, Friday 24 November 18:00–19:30
Storyhouse, Chester

The Great Yiddish Parade (p77)
Queen Mary, University of London

The Great Yiddish Parade is a re-enactment of a protest march by Jewish immigrants in Victorian Whitechapel who demanded better conditions for all East End workers. Experience the intensity of political culture in the Victorian East End with a band of klezmer musicians and singers performing lost Victorian Yiddish protest songs in their original setting. Participation is warmly encouraged and songsheets will be provided (no knowledge of Yiddish is required). March from Aldgate to Mile End Waste, where you will find out more about East London’s forgotten heritage of protest in poetry and song.

Sunday 19 November 11:00–12:30
Whitechapel High Street, London