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Arts & Humanities
Research Council

The Open University in London
Friday 25th October 2013

Becoming a Public Intellectual

'The Public Role of the Academic in Contemporary Society'

10.00 – 10.30 Arrive and Coffee

Academic-Led Session

10.30 – 11.15 **Dr Paul Lawrence** (The Open University) Welcome and introduction, setting out the aims of the programme as a whole. Paul's presentation considers the varying roles academics have played in public life during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, followed by discussion.

11.15 – 12.00 **Dr Rick Holliman** (The Open University) focuses on the current emphasis placed on research 'impact' and academic 'public engagement' by HEFCE and other funding bodies, and how this is generating new modes of working in HEIs.

12.00 – 12.45 **Professor Sarah Churchwell** (University of East Anglia) shares her experience of 'being' a public intellectual, what the term means personally and how it inflects her working life.

12.45 – 2.00 Lunch

Student-Led Session

2.00 – 3.15 **'Who's Who?'** The session starts with group work on a picture quiz of 'public intellectuals', followed by a discussion of which academics/public intellectuals you admire, and why. You might want to draw on the 250 words you have prepared for today's session.

3.15 – 3.30 Coffee

3.30 – 4.30 **Discussion:** student aims and objectives for the programme. What elements of yourself do you particularly want to develop?
Short plenary and close.

4.30 Pub for those who need it



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