

WADHAM 2026 SYMPOSIUM

**Register
now!**

Credit: Composite by Jayanne English, University of Manitoba; F. Schirzel et al.;
NRAO/AUI/NSF; DRAO/Canadian Galactic Plane Survey; and NASA/IRAS.

F O R C E

The Wadham Symposium 2026

FORCE

A cross-college, cross-disciplinary day of debate
Saturday, 7 February, seminar rooms 4 & 5

PROGRAMME

10:00 – Welcome and coffee/tea

10.30–12.30 session 1: Living with force: Structures under pressure

Cyril C. Grueter, “Ecological and social forces shaping primate societies”

Binesh Hass, “Rationality and Disorder of Law”

Kristiyan Mladenov, “The Vital Force of an Instinct: Children’s Art Education in 1940s Britain”

Bee Kim, “Vocal in-betweens: An exploration into the Trans-ient force of the ‘other’”

12.30 – Sandwich lunch

1.30–3.00 session 2: Force as care: Intervention, attention and repair

Stella Duncan, “Ionic Forces: Neural stability and the power of pharmacology”

Lewis Wynn, “Objects of Force: Laptops, Poems, Gas Flares, Cladding”

Sheenagh Aiken, “Force and Fragility: Drug discovery in Alzheimer’s disease”

3.00 – Coffee/tea

3.30–5.00 session 3: Strength of feeling: Sonic and social forces at work

Céline Dauverd, “Town vs. Crown: Force at work in 1516 Malaga”

Laura Tunbridge, “On Instrumental Forces”

Alexander Stavrou, “A Letter to Numkeg” (performance)

5.00 – PLENARY SESSION // Drinks

7.15 – DINNER in the Old Library

On Saturday, 7 February 2026, Wadham will hold its annual symposium on the theme of **FORCE**. Force implies power, strength, and intensity. Forces apply pressure, generate momentum and create change. To force may be to coerce or to resist. Yet forces of habit keep us static. Force can be institutionally sanctioned – the armed forces, the police force, the force of law. Forces of nature expose the limits and legitimacy of this authority. How can we understand the forces at work around, upon and within us? Presentations from students, fellows, staff, and professors will spark diverse and stimulating conversations, both in formal sessions and informal exchanges over coffee, lunch, and dinner. The event will foster a vibrant intellectual community, offering a chance to engage deeply with ideas and colleagues. It promises to be a highlight of the academic year, full of lively dialogue and intellectual exploration. Please visit <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/HmdPdaMvtn> or contact one of the conveners (Norman Aselmeier, Marko Ilić, Catriona Parry, Yevhen Yashchuk) to register.