



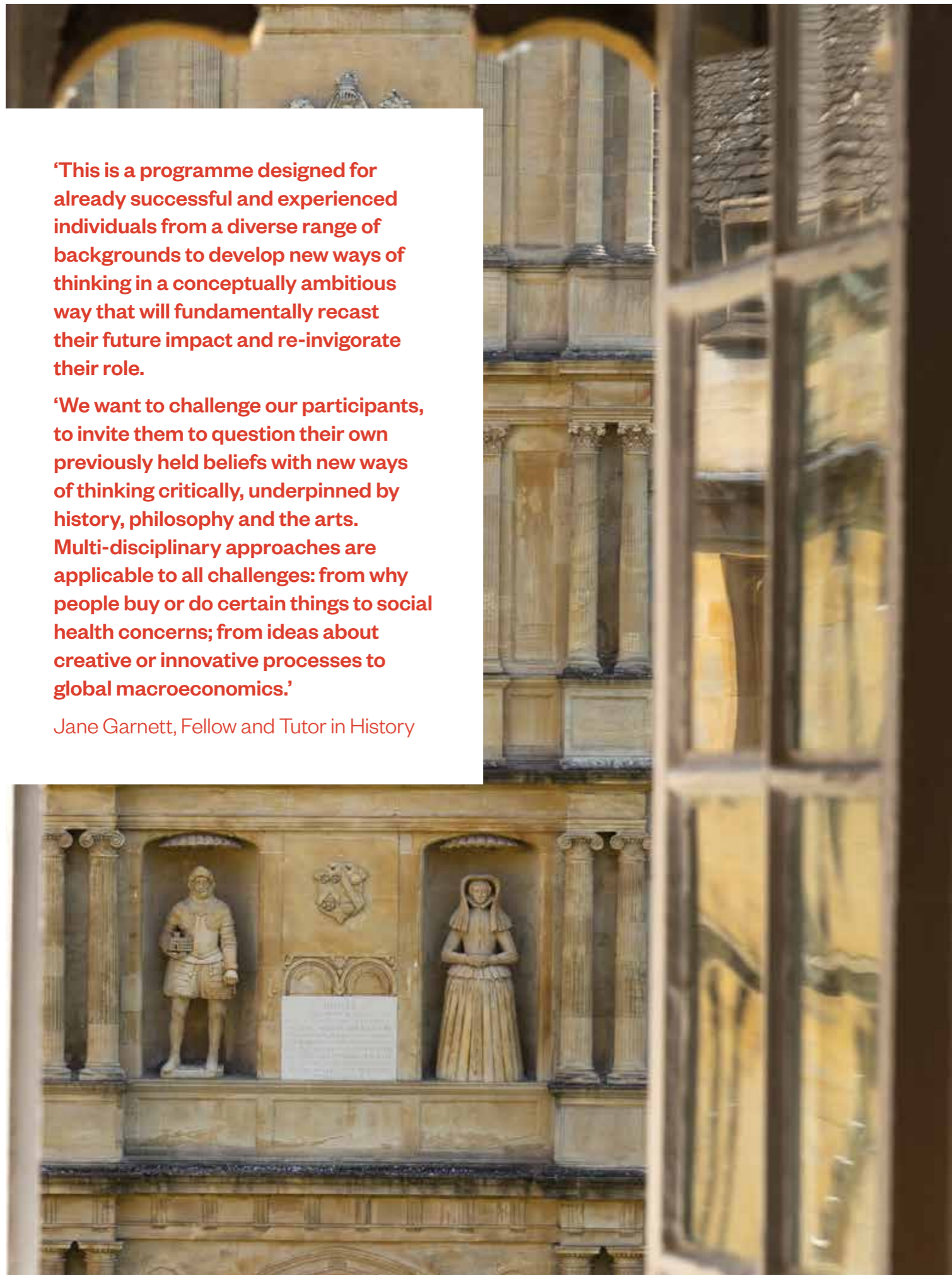
WADHAM  
COLLEGE  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

WADHAM FOR A WEEK

---

A SPACE TO THINK

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR LIMITED CIRCULATION



**'This is a programme designed for already successful and experienced individuals from a diverse range of backgrounds to develop new ways of thinking in a conceptually ambitious way that will fundamentally recast their future impact and re-invigorate their role.'**

**'We want to challenge our participants, to invite them to question their own previously held beliefs with new ways of thinking critically, underpinned by history, philosophy and the arts. Multi-disciplinary approaches are applicable to all challenges: from why people buy or do certain things to social health concerns; from ideas about creative or innovative processes to global macroeconomics.'**

Jane Garnett, Fellow and Tutor in History

# Animating Creativity

## A September Residency for Senior Leaders of Change

The challenges we currently face demand new outlooks and ideas. Now is the time to bring critical thinking and broader perspectives into the world and the workplace. A personal renaissance for senior leaders from a range of sectors, this is a week to think, reflect, and for each participant to come up with one insight which could change their future and that of many other people.

Our innovative approach to these challenges brings together a select group of highly experienced professionals from across the globe with our college fellows to work on an academic and cultural programme that will provoke and inspire new approaches to persistent issues and stimulate new ideas and endeavours.

An intense immersion in the collegiate tutorial environment, the programme taps into the same energy that you would expect from an Oxford college: working on the principles of debate and enquiry in a stimulating, multigenerational community.

### One transformative week in an interdisciplinary learning environment.

- How much more could you effect change if your horizons of understanding were broader, and your perspective longer? Learn why thinking historically is crucial for senior leaders of today and tomorrow.
- In your field of influence what use could you make of improved critical thinking from across disciplines, and from the greatest thinkers past and present?
- When did you last question how you think about your work, your industry, and your impact on it?

### At a glance

- A residential week for 20 experienced senior leaders from a range of sectors staying and working in Wadham College from Sunday 22 to Saturday 28 September.
- You will learn via small seminars and group debates as well as through creative experiences, cultural discovery and reflective practice
- You will also explore your own intellectual interests guided by our experts, including reading and research, and culminating in an individual tutorial .
- All meals, accommodation and course materials are included in the programme fee of £7,500 (for 2024).

## How do we think about the world?

**'When we talk about the impact of this programme, everything that we have come to believe is true in our career or practice could and should be re-examined and re-evaluated. We want people to come to their conclusions on their own, to be flexible in their thinking, to be willing to be wrong, to re-address their ways of perceiving and analysing in an intense way, to be prepared to go back into their role and bring entirely new perspectives to it. And because thought and action cannot be separated, thinking about your next projects or challenges may take them in a completely new direction.'**

Tom Sinclair, Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy

The unique vitality of the collegiate system in Oxford is built on energising conversations between people from different backgrounds who are studying in a variety of fields. The Humanities have played a crucial role in fostering and focusing these interconnections. Historical, philosophical and aesthetic enquiry will provide the distinctive intellectual core of this programme within which participants will work collaboratively as well as exploring their own personal interests, to breathe new life into existing challenges, and inspire new ones.

### Benefits to you:

- Significantly develop the way you think about your work and practice, to invigorate and boost your personal capacity and potential
- Step away from your current assumptions about confronting challenges and meeting goals, and return with entirely new approaches to them
- Give yourself the opportunity to think more flexibly, with more curiosity and clarity, to rejuvenate your impact
- Revive your creativity and interest in the world around you to inspire new ideas and innovation
- Become part of an intellectually curious and diverse network, which will build over time.

### Benefits to your organisation:

- Organisations all require new ideas for growth and change - bring the creativity and innovation from a breadth of fields and thinking into yours
- Gain a competitive edge by developing your organisation into one that can access ideas from outside its normal field of vision or sector
- Be able to guide and advise colleagues to help with thoughtful decision-making and idea creation.



### Some of our Programme Themes

#### Day 1: Thinking historically

**The myths we live by: history, memory and tradition**

With Jane Garnett and George Southcombe

#### Day 2: History of Art

**The power of images**

With Jane Garnett and George Southcombe

#### Day 3: Philosophy

**Democracy and discontent**

With Tom Sinclair

#### Day 4: Ancient & Modern

**From Pericles to Trump: Democracy and Demagoguery**

With Peter Thonemann

# Why Wadham?



**'It's a capsule of the Wadham and Oxford experience for people who haven't had it before, and a reinvigoration for those that have. Wadham has prided itself on encouraging serious holistic thinking – on being a place of questioning and experimentation across disciplines.'** George Southcombe, Fellow in History.

**Wadham is the perfect host for this interdisciplinary and innovative venture**

## **Intellectual debate for troubled times**

John Wilkins, the Warden in the mid-17th century – a period of intense ideological conflict and civil war - wanted the college to be 'a haven of peace and intellectual curiosity in the midst of troubled times'. A polymath who conceived of travel to the moon as well as inventing a universal language, he conducted experiments in the college gardens and gathered around him a dynamic, creative group of thinkers who formed the nucleus of the Royal Society.

## **Community without Conformity**

This was the aspiration for the college of Joseph Wells, Wadham's Warden during another world-challenging and world-changing historical moment - the First World War.

## **World-changing**

Today, Wadham's reputation is as a progressive and outward-looking college:

- This was prefigured in the 19th and early 20th centuries when Wadham was known for its radicalism
- In 1884 the Wadham History graduate Samuel Barnett and his wife founded Toynbee Hall in Whitechapel to spearhead a new form of inter-class social engagement and understanding

- They also founded the Whitechapel Gallery - the first purpose-built art gallery in the UK - to foster the role of art in enhancing the quality of life and human dignity
- Barnett's ideal of social reciprocity 'to learn as much as to teach; to receive as much as to give' - encapsulates the principles which underpin intellectual and personal interchange within the college.

## **An Immersive, educational retreat**

The beautiful buildings and gardens at Wadham remain a haven of peace and intellectual curiosity in troubled times. In this intense week at Wadham we offer an educational pilgrimage. A space for thought which has nurtured innovative thinking over more than four centuries. A chance to stand back and rethink work and the world around. It will leave you feeling emotionally, physically and intellectually stimulated and recharged. Whether you are returning to Oxford having studied here before, or are coming for the first time, this programme offers a new and exciting opportunity and a transformative experience.

# The programme week

## Your day will include:

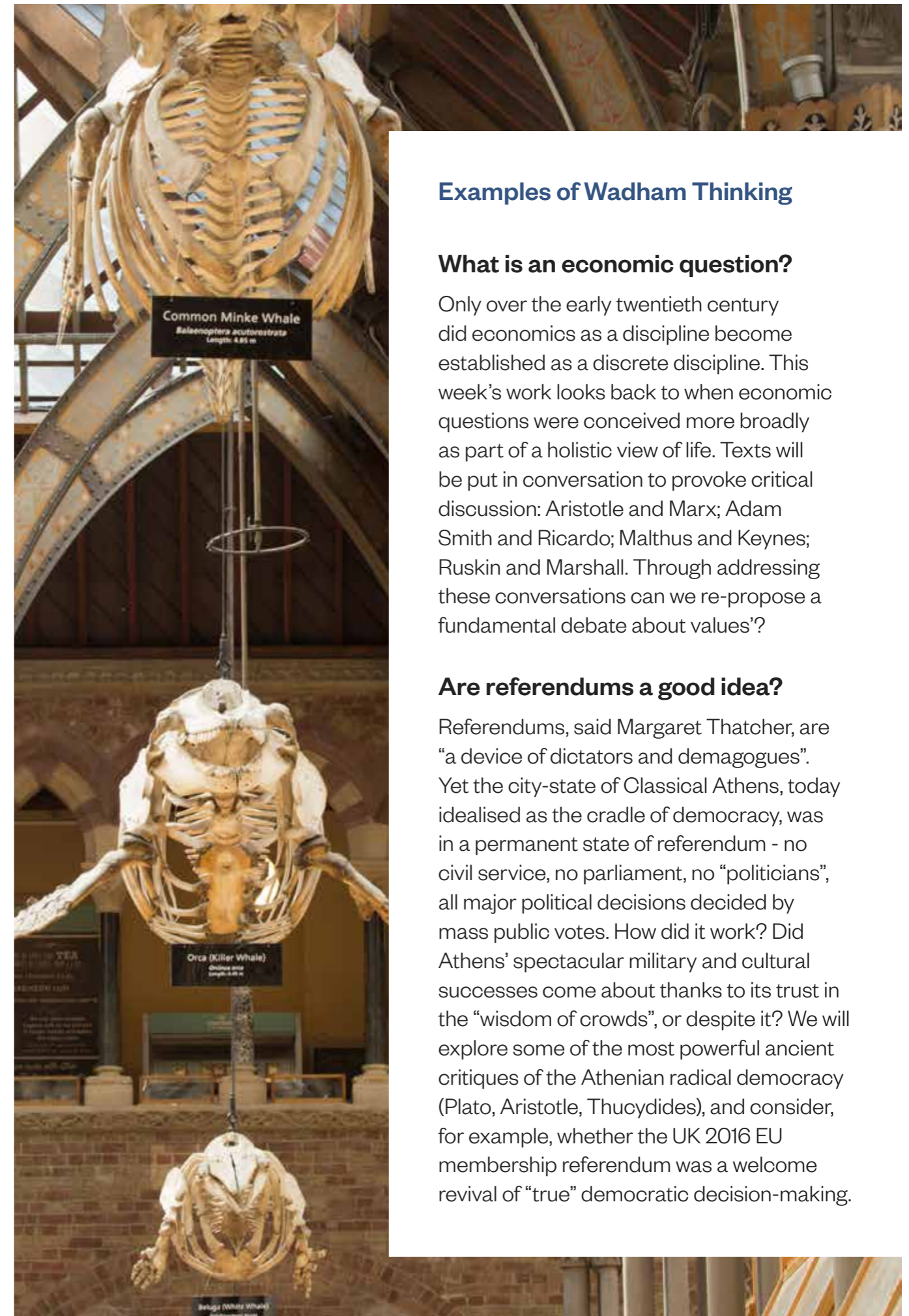
- Seminar discussion based on one of the key programme themes
- Keynote lecture by one of Oxford's world-leading academics
- Networking, discussion and debate with peers and fellows throughout the day, and over lunch and dinner in the college Hall
- One-to-one tutorial with an Oxford Fellow and subject specialist (on the final day)
- Interwoven creative, cultural and social programme
- Individual research and reading as well as guided meditation or physical exercise
- Plenary discussion and feast in Wadham's Hall (on the final day)

## A tutorial approach

Upon registration, participants will be put in direct touch with a relevant tutor to discuss their choice of tutorial focus from a menu designed to complement the seminar themes. Tutors will set a question, assign some readings, and indicate relevant elements in the lectures and seminars, as well as some prompts for thinking. Participants will prepare talking points and be ready to converse for an hour with their tutor one-on-one on the last day of the programme.

## Oxford key-note lectures

A key feature of the programme is the opportunity to engage with world leading faculty from across the University of Oxford. Distinguished academics from a range of subject areas will present the afternoon key-note lectures and tackle some of the most challenging questions of our time .



## Examples of Wadham Thinking

### What is an economic question?

Only over the early twentieth century did economics as a discipline become established as a discrete discipline. This week's work looks back to when economic questions were conceived more broadly as part of a holistic view of life. Texts will be put in conversation to provoke critical discussion: Aristotle and Marx; Adam Smith and Ricardo; Malthus and Keynes; Ruskin and Marshall. Through addressing these conversations can we re-propose a fundamental debate about values'?

### Are referendums a good idea?

Referendums, said Margaret Thatcher, are "a device of dictators and demagogues". Yet the city-state of Classical Athens, today idealised as the cradle of democracy, was in a permanent state of referendum - no civil service, no parliament, no "politicians", all major political decisions decided by mass public votes. How did it work? Did Athens' spectacular military and cultural successes come about thanks to its trust in the "wisdom of crowds", or despite it? We will explore some of the most powerful ancient critiques of the Athenian radical democracy (Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides), and consider, for example, whether the UK 2016 EU membership referendum was a welcome revival of "true" democratic decision-making.

# Faculty

## Oxford key-note lectures

A key feature of the “Wadham for a Week” pilot will be the opportunity to engage with world leading faculty from across the University of Oxford. Distinguished academics from a range of subject areas will present the afternoon key-note lectures and tackle some of the most challenging questions of our time. We are also delighted to welcome distinguished alumni and a Wadham Nobel Laureate to meet the group. The full pilot programme will be announced in the Spring.



**[Jane Garnett](#), Fellow and Tutor in Modern History**

Dr Garnett’s research is on intellectual, cultural and religious history, predominantly since the nineteenth century, including the study of gender and visual culture over wider periods. The common thread has been a concern with the historical understanding of beliefs and values.



**[George Southcombe](#), Fellow by Special Election in History**

Dr Southcombe’s research focuses on two broad, overlapping areas: the history of seventeenth-century dissent, and the relationship between early modern literature and history.



**[Peter Thonemann](#), Tutorial Fellow and Professor of Ancient History**

Professor Thonemann teaches and supervises students across a broad range of Greek and Roman historical topics, with a particular focus on the Greek-speaking world from the archaic period to Late Antiquity, as well as Achaemenid Persia.



**[Tom Sinclair](#), Tutorial Fellow in Philosophy**

Professor Sinclair writes on political philosophy and ethics. In political philosophy, Tom is particularly interested in questions about the authority of political rule, the nature of justice and injustice, and the relation between political authority and justice.



**[Robert Hannigan CMG](#), Warden**

Robert Hannigan joined Wadham College as Warden in 2021. He is a cyber security specialist who spent much of his career in government service. He was Director, GCHQ, the UK’s largest intelligence and cyber agency, and established the National Cyber Security Centre.



# Booking

**We are inviting a select group of senior leaders from all sectors to join our inaugural Wadham for a Week pilot from 22–28 September 2024.**

The cost for the week (including fees, accommodation at Wadham, meals and course materials) will be £7,500 (VAT exempt).

Places are limited on the 2024 pilot, but the College is planning to scale up the initiative in 2025.

Wadham is a charity and the proceeds will help provide long-term security for the College's core mission in teaching and research, including an expansion of our outreach programmes, seeking to widen access to Higher Education and Oxford.

Please book your place [here](#) or [contact us](#) with any queries.

**W** [www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/wadham-for-a-week](http://www.wadham.ox.ac.uk/wadham-for-a-week)

**E** [executive.education@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:executive.education@wadham.ox.ac.uk)

**T** +44 1865 277 970

Rachel Saunders, EA to Julie Hage, Director of Development, will be pleased to help with additional information and can also schedule a call / zoom meeting with Julie.

**E** [rachel.saunders@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rachel.saunders@wadham.ox.ac.uk)

**wadham.ox.ac.uk**



**WADHAM  
COLLEGE**  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## Contact details

---

E [executive.education@wadham.ox.ac.uk](mailto:executive.education@wadham.ox.ac.uk)

T +44 1865 277 970

---

**Wadham College**  
**Parks Road**  
**Oxford**  
**OX1 3PN**  
**UK**

