

The 2014 ASDC National Conference Speaker Biographies

Dr Teresa Anderson

Director of the University of Manchester's Discovery Centre at Jodrell Bank

Dr Teresa Anderson is Director of the University of Manchester's new Discovery Centre at Jodrell Bank, a project she was responsible for developing and delivering from its inception to its opening in April 2011. She also led the successful bid to have Jodrell Bank put on the UK's shortlist for World Heritage Site status. An alumnus of the School of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Manchester, she also has a PhD in Electrical Engineering, alongside many years experience working in Science policy and engagement. She was awarded an MBE for services to Astrophysics in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2013.



The new Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre aims to 'inspire the scientists of the future' by engaging visitors with the high profile Astrophysics research being carried out at the Observatory. The Centre currently receives over 130,000 visitors per annum, including 12,000 school pupils who receive curriculum-linked Education sessions. Visitor numbers are rising steadily and expansion is planned to accommodate new audiences over the coming years. The Centre takes a strategic approach to reaching new people, such as the inception of a new 'Galaxy Garden' based on astronomical themes and the 'Live from Jodrell Bank' Science-Music festivals, which reach around 25,000 attendees each summer.

Lesley Miles

Chief Strategy Officer, The Royal Society

Lesley Miles joined the Royal Society as its Chief Strategy Officer in October 2013. As part of her role, she is responsible for the Society's public engagement programme including the annual Summer Science Exhibition. Before joining the Society, she spent seven years as the Marketing and Communications Director of Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and managed its public marketing and fundraising programmes. Lesley has spent most of her career working in the private sector including six years as Marketing Director of Waterstone's Booksellers.



Clare Matterson

Director of Medical Humanities and Engagement, Wellcome Trust

Clare Matterson is Director of Culture & Society at the Wellcome Trust. She leads the Trust's work to weave science into the fabric of society and to explore the place of medicine and health in culture - past, present and future. Clare's portfolio includes communications, education, grant funding across the humanities, social sciences and public engagement, along with the Wellcome Library and Wellcome Collection, the free destination for the incurably curious. Clare led the Wellcome Trust's initiative to create the National Science Learning Centre – a major initiative with the UK Government to drive improvement in science education. Clare joined the Trust in 1999 as Head of Policy, and produced the Trust's first Strategic Plan. Prior to her time at the Trust, Clare worked as a Management Consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) advising universities, government departments and funding councils in the UK and overseas. She was a Senior Policy Adviser to the 1999 National Committee of Enquiry into Higher Education and has also worked for the Higher Education Funding Council and the Higher Education Quality Council. She spent two years at the State University of New York, following receipt of a Fulbright Fellowship, and has a degree in Zoology from Oxford University.



Professor Alice Roberts

Professor of Public Engagement in Science, University of Birmingham

Alice is Professor of Public Engagement in Science at the University of Birmingham. She is also the Director of Anatomy for the NHS Severn Deanery School of Surgery, running a course in surgical anatomy for trainee surgeons in the northern half of the South West. Alice Roberts originally trained as a medical doctor, before becoming a university lecturer. She taught anatomy on the medical course at Bristol University for eleven years, while developing a research interest in biological anthropology.



Part of the original team of presenters on BBC2's *Coast*, Alice went on to present a range of programmes on BBC2, including *Don't Die Young*, *The Incredible Human Journey*, *Wild Swimming*, *Digging for Britain*, *Horizon* ('Are we still evolving?' and 'Being Human'), *Origins of Us*, *Prehistoric Autopsy*, *Woolly Mammoth* and *Ice Age Giants*. She is regularly to be heard on Radio 4, as a presenter of Radio 4's environment programme, *Costing The Earth*, as well as the new *Inside Science* series. She writes a regular science column for The Observer, and is currently in the throes of finishing her fifth popular science book. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Cheltenham Festival of Science, Patron of the Association of Science and Discovery Centres, and Patron of the Natural Science Collections Association. She holds two honorary doctorates and is an Honorary Fellow of the British Science Association, and of the Society of Biology. She is the 2014 President of the Association of Science Education.

David Watson

Head of Campaigns, Prime Minister's Office

David Watson is a specialist in social marketing and behaviour change, with experience on issues as varied as climate change, road safety and recruitment to the Armed Forces. He is currently Head of Campaigns at the Prime Minister's Office, where amongst other work he leads on science communications issues, and is an advocate for the economic benefits of UK science. Previous roles include stints as Head of Marketing at the Department for Communities and the Department for the Environment. David is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and in his free time is a keen cricket enthusiast. He is, regrettably, not as young as he looks in his photo.



Dr Penny Fidler

CEO, The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres

Dr Penny Fidler is the CEO of The UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres, a membership organisation bringing together over 60 of the nation's major science engagement organisations. Together they engage 20 million people across the UK with the wonders of science.



Penny gained her PhD in neuroscience from Cambridge University and has fourteen years experience working in the field of science engagement, including setting up a millennium science centre, running an Exhibitions and Neuroscience Consultancy and speaking in Parliament on the importance of informal science learning. She has also founded and directed many national strategic science engagement projects.

Professor Louise Archer

Department of Education and Professional Studies, King's College London

Louise is Professor of Sociology of Education in the Department of Education and Professional Studies at King's College London. Her research focuses on identities and inequalities (of 'race'/ethnicity, social class and gender) in education. She has published on numerous topics including British Muslim students, British Chinese educational achievement, urban youth and education, the minority ethnic middle-classes and working-class access to HE. She is the director of the ESRC funded ASPIRES projects (ASPIRES and ASPIRES2), charting the development of young people's science and career aspirations from age 10-14 and 14-19. She was director of the Targeted Initiative on Science and Mathematics Education (TISME), a research programme funded by the ESRC in partnership with the Institute of Physics, Gatsby and the ASE. She is also director of the King's College London part of the Enterprising Science project on young people's engagement with science (funded by BP and conducted in partnership with the Science Museum).



Helen Thomas

Executive Producer, BBC Science

Helen Thomas is an Executive Producer in the BBC's world-renowned Science Department. She gained a degree in Physics with Medical Physics from Exeter University before joining the BBC as a Sound Engineer. Since moving into programme production she has produced and directed a great range of Science Programming - from emotionally charged observational medical documentaries such as "Your Life in Their Hands" and "The Brain Hospital" to multi-award-winning popular science series such as "Animal Hospital" and "Jimmy's Food Factory". She made the BAFTA and RTS nominated engineering series "Supersized Earth" as well as single content-rich documentaries such as "Seven Ages of Starlight" and "Guts". Helen Exec Produced Mark Miodownik's Materials: How They're Made, Dara O'Briain's Science Club and is the Exec of the "Stargazing Live" presented by Dara and Professor Brian Cox. She has just made a series called "Operation Wild" with Clare Balding about big animal medicine.



Professor Justin Dillon

Professor of Science and Environmental Education, King's College London

Justin Dillon is professor of science and environmental education and Head of the Science and Technology Education Group at King's. After taking a degree in chemistry, he trained as a teacher and taught in six London schools, joining King's in 1989. Justin's research focuses on learning and engagement in and out of schools. Together with two colleagues, he coordinated the ESRC's Targeted Initiative on Science and Mathematics Education. Justin has worked on a number of EU projects including PENCIL, INQUIRE, FEAST and IRIS. He co-edits the *International Journal of Science Education* and was President of the European Science Education Research Association from 2007-11. In December, Justin will take up the post of Head of the Graduate School of Education at the University of Bristol.

