

PANEL DISCUSSION

Working in Media, Communications & Literature

THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2026, 5PM

LRC LECTURE ROOM, ST JOHN'S COLLEGE

Gretchen Larsen

Gretchen is a Professor of Marketing at Durham University and a Co-Director (Business) of the University's Institute of Advanced Studies (IAS). Her expertise is in interpretive and critical consumer research. She is particularly interested in the relationship between consumption, marketplace cultures, and arts and culture. Gretchen has taught a wide range of marketing related topics at various University's over the course of more than two decades. Many of her past students now work in the areas of media and communications.

Andrew Graystone

Andrew is a John's alum three times over having studied a BA, PGCE & PhD here. He has produced countless TV and radio programmes for the BBC, Channel Four, ITV and others, including documentaries, daytime and discussion programmes, and live OBs. He has been a communications consultant for a wide range of charities and businesses including Tearfund and the Labour Party. He has broken big stories and written for newspapers and magazines such as Prospect magazine, the Sunday Times and Private Eye. He is the author of several non-fiction books including Faith, Hope and Mischief and Bleeding for Jesus.

Lisa Kaminov

Liza is a broadcast journalist, presenter and documentary filmmaker working for the international channel France 24 and news agency Agence France-Presse in Paris. Having obtained a BA in Chinese Studies at St John's and a MA in TV Journalism at City University of London, she went on to specialize in international reporting, covering major global events like the 2022 invasion of Ukraine from Russia, and the Nagorno-Karabakh exodus to Armenia. Her live reporting spans French politics, state visits, trials, protests and major sporting events like the FIFA World Cup. She is currently directing a documentary for Al Jazeera on the declining marriage rates in China.

John Middleton

John Middleton returned to his native North-East in 2000 for his PGCE at St John's, following time away in South London, Oxford and Leuven (Belgium). His father is also a Johnian and is now an occasional visitor to the SCR. As well as teaching, John continued his love of radio, which he fostered at university, and football which came together by accident at Durham Hospitals Radio. Covering Newcastle United and Sunderland for almost 18 seasons, John commentates, reports and writes for various media outlets such as IRN, The Newcastle Chronicle and WSL. Since 2014, he has been "the voice of Durham Women's Football Club" in the second-tier of English Football, and has started giving current professionals the opportunity to investigate future possibilities in the industry.

Michael Wakelin

Michael is Executive Chair of the Religion Media Centre, Executive Producer at TBI Media responsible for Pause for Thought on Radio 2 and is a former Head of Religious Broadcasting at the BBC after 23 years with the corporation – leaving in 2010. He is also working in the public and private sectors, including the City of London and the Houses of Parliament, to improve the accommodation of religion in the work place. He is a faith advisor to the Football Association (he supports Norwich City FC) and sings bass with the Cottontown Chorus - currently BABS/MACC National Champions.

ALL ARE WELCOME, NO SIGNUP REQUIRED