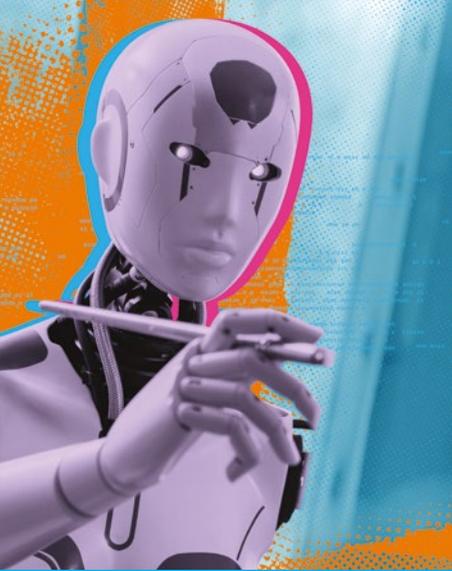




Mon 19
– Fri 23
August
2024



FESTIVAL

OF POLITICS

AN

FHÈIS

PHOILITIGS

BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://festivalofpolitics.scot)



Scotland's Futures Forum
Fòram Alba air Thoiseach



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



—YEARS—
BLIADHNA



PRESIDING OFFICER'S WELCOME

I am delighted to introduce the programme for our 2024 Festival of Politics. 2024 is a significant milestone in the Scottish Parliament's history. It marks 25 years since the creation of the Scottish Parliament and 20 years since our iconic landmark building opened at the foot of the Royal Mile.

It is also the 20th anniversary of the Festival of Politics itself. The Festival of Politics, for those who this is new too, is all about opening-up the doors of the Scottish Parliament to welcome you, into your Parliament, to talk about some of the issues that matter and affect you.

This is also what I as Presiding Officer want to do with the wider 25th anniversary programme – to use it as a platform to talk about how the Parliament can best serve the people it represents in the future.

This Festival of Politics programme reflects and celebrates these milestones in Scotland's political journey.

We have a varied programme which looks at both the future and the past, which talks about what we can learn from our history and how we can help it shape what's next. We also look at topical issues that affect people across Scotland and indeed the world on issues such as women in politics, the impact of artificial intelligence, sexism, standards in public life. As well as a flavour on the big issues that are affecting international politics.

We have a lively free programme of opera, choirs, music and exhibitions in the Festival Café Bar where you are always assured a warm welcome. We look forward to welcoming you all at your Scottish Parliament.

Rt Hon Alison Johnstone MSP
Presiding Officer

FÀILTE BHON

OIFIGEAR RIAGHLAIDH

BSL



Tha e na thoileachas dhomh am prògram airson na Fèis Phoilitigs 2024 againn a thoirt thugaibh. Tha 2024 na clach-mhìle chudromach ann an eachdraidh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba. Tha i a' comharrachadh 25 bliadhna bho chaidh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba a chruthachadh agus 20 bliadhna bho dh'fhosgail an togalach suaicheanta againn aig bonn na Mìle Rìoghail.

Is e seo cuideachd 20mh ceann-bliadhna na Fèis Phoilitigs fhèin. Bidh an Fhèis Phoilitigs a' fosgladh dorsan Pàrlamaid na h-Alba airson fàilte a chur oirbh uile don Phàrlamaid agaibh fhèin, agus bruidhinn air cuid de na cùisean a tha cudromach agus a tha a' toirt buaidh oirbh.

Seo cuideachd na tha mi fhìn mar an t-Oifigear Riaghlaidh airson dèanamh leis a' phrògram 25mh ceann-bliadhna nas fharsainge – a chleachdadh mar àrd-ùrlar airson bruidhinn air mar as fheàrr as urrainn don Phàrlamaid seirbheis a thoirt do na daoine a tha i a' riochdachadh an-diugh agus san àm ri teachd.

Tha prògram na Fèis Phoilitigs a' nochdadh agus a' comharrachadh nan clachan-mìle seo ann an turas poilitigeach na h-Alba.

Tha prògram eadar-mheasgte againn a tha a' coimhead air adhart agus air ais: a' bruidhinn air dè as urrainn dhuinn ionnsachadh bhon eachdraidh againn agus mar as urrainn dhuinn buaidh a thoirt air na tha ri thighinn. Bidh sinn cuideachd a' coimhead air cùisean an latha a bheir buaidh air daoine air feadh na h-Alba agus gu dearbh air an t-saoghal, leithid boireannaich ann am poilitigs, buaidh AI, gnèitheachas, agus inbhean sa bheatha phoblaich.

Tha prògram beòthail an-asgaidh againn de dh'opara, de chòisirean, de cheòl agus de thaisbeanaidhean ann am Bàr Café na Fèise. Tha sinn a' coimhead air adhart ri fàilte a chur oirbh uile do bhur Pàrlamaid fhèin.

Am Fìor Urr Alison Johnstone BPA
Oifigear Riaghlaidh

FESTIVAL

PARTNERS

HEALING ARTS SCOTLAND



Scotland's Futures Forum
Fòram Alba air Thoiseach

SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT



WHAT'S ON

This programme is designed to inform audiences about the diverse range of events. Whether you're a political enthusiast or looking to learn more about the world around you, join us.

MONDAY 19 AUGUST

Dementia – the power of dance and playlists	1:45pm - 3:15pm
Healing Arts Scotland performance with Edinburgh International Festival	4:00pm - 4:45pm
In conversation with Benedetta Tagliabue and Roberto Cacciapaglia BSL 	5:00pm - 6:30pm

TUESDAY 20 AUGUST

The power of age-friendly communities and the arts	10:45am - 12:15pm
Who controls AI – ethics and legality?	11:00am - 12:30pm
Health creators: health inequalities in Scotland	11:30am - 1:00pm
20 years of Holyrood BSL 	12:45pm - 2:15pm
What is local government for? BSL 	3:15pm - 4:45pm
Home sweet home?	3:30pm - 5:00pm
Place and displacement: reconnecting to the world through the arts	5:30pm - 7:00pm

SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)

WEDNESDAY 21 AUGUST

AI and creativity	10:45am - 12:15pm
Why do we need whistle-blowers?	11:00am - 12:30pm
Space – launching Scotland's ambitions	11:30am - 1:00pm
Jobs and the just transition – back to the 80s?	1:00pm - 2:30pm
Are standards in public life really declining? BSL 	1:15pm - 2:45pm
U.S. elections – Trump or Biden 2.0? BSL 	3:15pm - 4:45pm
Making amends for the Empire – has Scotland done enough?	3:30pm - 5:00pm

THURSDAY 22 AUGUST

Global politics in 2024 – testing times ahead?	10:45am - 12:15pm
Consent BSL 	11:00am - 12:30pm
GameApocalypse now: can games solve Scotland's digital skills crisis?	11:30am - 1:00pm
Sexism in the workplace	1:00pm - 2:30pm
Not the end of the world? BSL 	1:15pm - 2:45pm
Reading between the lines: information literacy	3:15pm - 4:45pm
25 years of the Scottish Parliament – where are the young women?	3:30pm - 5:00pm
Climate Café®	All day

FRIDAY 23 AUGUST

Mental health and young people	10:45am - 12:15pm
AI – deep fake politics	11:00am - 12:30pm
Raising the curtain on St Andrew's Day	11:30am - 1:00pm
Incel culture	1:00pm - 2:30pm
Elections in 50 countries BSL 	1:15pm - 2:45pm
Think local, act global?	1:15pm - 2:45pm
Responsible debate	3:15pm - 4:45pm
The Scottish Parliament at 25 BSL 	4:00pm - 5:30pm

MONDAY

19 AUGUST 2024



Healing Arts Scotland performance with Edinburgh International Festival

In partnership with Healing Arts Scotland

4:00pm - 4:45pm / FREE
Landscaped grounds

Join this incredible free performance to mark Healing Arts Scotland's country-wide, week-long activation, celebrating and advocating for improved physical, mental and social health through the arts. This one-off event marks the partnership of Scottish Ballet, Jameel Arts and Health Lab and the World Health Organisation and features a new dance created by Scottish Ballet performed by a cast of community dancers, NHS staff and young performers with a line-up of pipers, classical, and brass musicians outside the Scottish Parliament.



Dementia - the power of dance and personalised playlists

In partnership with Healing Arts Scotland

1:45pm - 3:15pm / £7.50, £5.00

Research demonstrates that participatory art forms empower the artist in everyone and improve the quality of life for people living with dementia and their families. Join the panel to discuss the science behind the power; the first-hand experience; and how carers and families can benefit. *There will be a 15-minute taster dance session as part of this panel.*

SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)

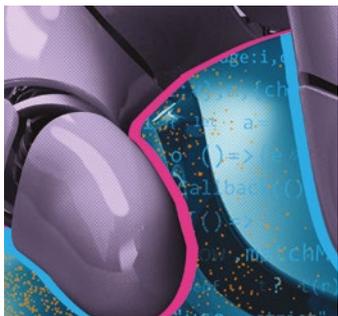


In conversation with Benedetta Tagliabue with a performance by Roberto Cacciapaglia

In partnership with The Consulate General of Spain in Edinburgh and The Cervantes Chair at the University of Edinburgh

5:00pm - 6:30pm / £10.00, £8.00

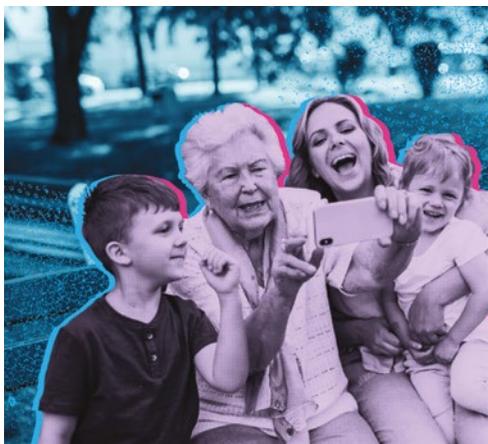
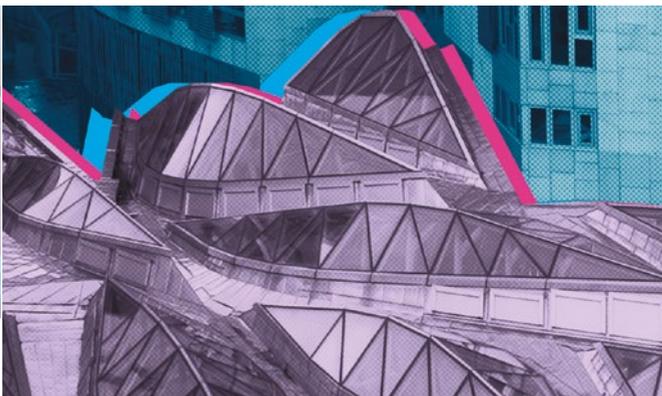
Join the Presiding Officer in conversation with Benedetta Tagliabue, architect, partner and widow of the visionary creative Eric Miralles, who along with their own EMBT and fellow Scottish architectural company, RMJM, designed the Scottish Parliament building. This event will also feature excerpts from the opera 'Mai per Atzar' (Never by Chance) originally staged by Valerio Ferrari and Roberto Cacciapaglia for the inauguration of the EMBT studio in Barcelona in 1997. The excerpts from the original opera will be performed live by its composer, the world leading composer and pianist Roberto Cacciapaglia in the Debating Chamber of the Scottish Parliament. Join us for this unique celebration of creativity.



TUESDAY

20 AUGUST

2024



The power of age-friendly communities and the arts

In partnership with Healing Arts Scotland and the Scottish Older People's Assembly

10:45am - 12:15pm / £7.50, £5.00

Social isolation impacts all generations, but new intergenerational communities across Scotland are creating spaces and opportunities for people of all ages to, live, work and play together. Hear about the benefits of social cohesion and the role of the arts in bridging social divides, building trust, combatting ageism and inequality.

SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)

Who controls AI – ethics and legality?

In partnership with The Law Society of Scotland and the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics

11:00am - 12:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

While politicians aim to regulate AI, it's a few big tech companies in the driving seat. How do we balance factoring in accountability and public deliberation on ethical AI and simultaneously regulate without stifling innovation? And who can ensure democratic global buy-in on international regulations?



Health creators: health inequalities in Scotland

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Health Inequalities

11:30am - 1:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Health inequalities mean that people living with social, economic or physical disadvantages are more likely to experience ill-health and die earlier. The panel will discuss the right to health, barriers, and access to health services as they impact race, prison population, poverty and the role data plays in tackling health inequalities.



20 years of Holyrood

In partnership with Benedetta Tagliabue – EMBT Architects

12:45pm - 2:15pm / £7.50, £5.00

One of the most innovative buildings designed and winner of numerous architectural awards sits at the foot of the Royal Mile amidst the landscape of Holyrood Park. Constructed from a mixture of steel, oak and granite, the Scottish Parliament still incites vocal supporters and critics on its aesthetics to the over runs and over-budget price tag. Join the panel to hear more about the inspiration, the drama and the behind-the-scenes stories of a Parliament, the main masterpiece of Enric Miralles and his Barcelona studio, that is intended to be viewed as 'growing out of the land'.



What is local government for?

In partnership with COSLA

3:15pm - 4:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

It is responsible for vital services in a designated area: from social care, schools, housing to licensing and pest control. Amidst rising demand, local governments are ringing the emergency finance bell. However, lessons can be learned from global counterparts adopting radical and imaginative solutions as well as ensuring the health of local democracy.



Home sweet home?

In partnership with the University of Glasgow

3:30pm - 5:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Housing appears to have transformed from provision of a warm, safe, and secure 'home' to 'private asset'. With the Scottish government declaring a 'housing emergency' due to many complex reasons and with a 130% increase in children in temporary accommodation, it's time for radical solutions. Join the panel to discuss compulsory sales, land tax values and public land.

Place and displacement: reconnecting to the world through the arts

In partnership with Healing Arts Scotland

5:30pm - 7:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Forcibly displaced populations have surged around the world due to everything from conflict to climate crisis. Forced displacement generates health related challenges from shelter to food and broader psychosocial issues of trauma, whose effects can even have intergenerational impacts. This panel will discuss how the arts have been used to help reconnect forcibly displaced peoples cope with their new circumstances, process their sense of loss, and begin the journey to imagining a more hopeful future.



WEDNESDAY

21 AUGUST

2024

AI and creativity

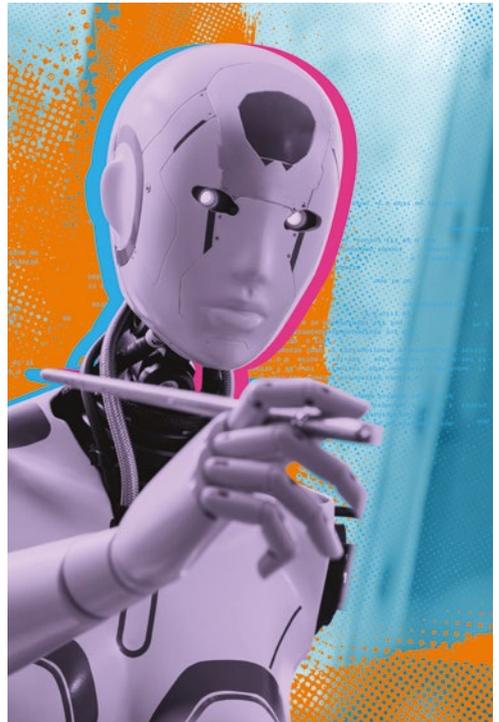
In partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum

10:45am - 12:15pm / £7.50, £5.00

Machines can generate art, music, literature and apparently many of us can't tell the difference between human or machine creativity.

While creatives globally fear cuts to earnings and jobs, new technology is yet another challenge. And what of authorship and privacy?

Are creative humans still relevant or is generative AI an overhype?



SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)



Why do we need whistle-blowers?

In partnership with Edinburgh Napier University

11:00am - 12:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

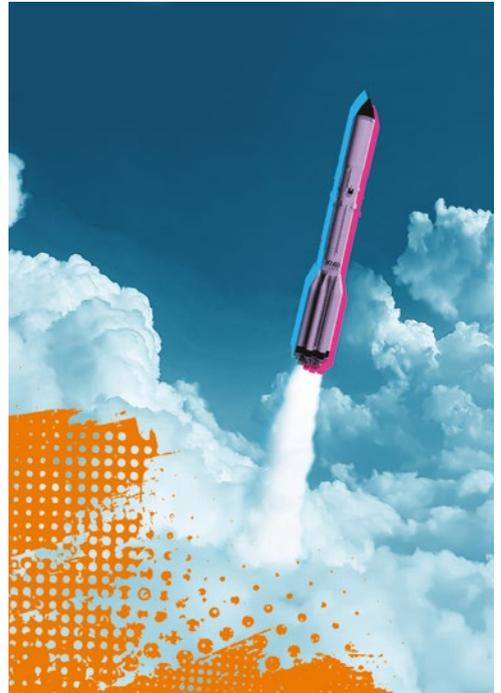
Despite risk to reputation, livelihood and even life, what motivates whistle-blowers to disclose official information, corruption, or fraud to a wider public? What protection is there and what of the 'bad leakers' who are motivated to disclose information for personal, political or financial gain and no regard to public interest?

Space – launching Scotland's ambitions

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Space

11:30am - 1:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

As Norway, Sweden, and Germany all prepare for launch activity this summer, how ready is Shetland's Spaceport, or indeed other Scottish spaceports for launch? What is still required and what will this mean for Scotland's and the UK's economy, and how is Scotland placed to leverage this as much as possible?





Jobs and the just transition – back to the 80s?

In partnership with the University of Aberdeen

1:00pm - 2:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

What can the 1980s miner's strike teach us as we move through a 'just transition' and ensure communities dependent on fossil fuels don't face the same challenges? Is the close working between government, business, investment, and a local approach creating high-quality jobs and employment for a green economy in Scotland?

Are standards in public life really declining?

In partnership with the University of Stirling

1:15pm - 2:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

With the Scottish Parliament marking 25 years, it is timely to discuss the public's view of the integrity and ethics of those in public life such as politicians, the media, and the justice system. How can political, social, and cultural changes bolster the perceived decline of standards in the 21st century?

U.S. elections – Trump or Biden 2.0?

3:15pm - 4:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

Americans are apparently concerned about the fitness and ethics respectively of both their Presidential candidates. With everything from the economy to the Middle East influencing voting intentions, how will November's election play out and what will the impact be for the rest of the world?

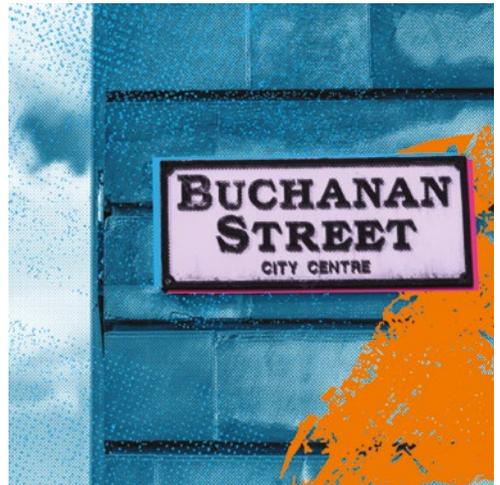


Making amends for the Empire – has Scotland done enough?

In partnership with the Coalition for Racial Equality and Rights

3:30pm - 5:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Colonial profit and participation are embedded in the history of Scotland. Join us to hear about ongoing work to address the history of Scotland's involvement in transatlantic slavery and the Empire, and to question whether enough is being done to confront and atone for Scotland's imperial past.





THURSDAY

22 AUGUST



2024



Global politics in 2024 – testing times ahead?

In partnership with the Scottish Council on Global Affairs

10:45am - 12:15pm / £7.50, £5.00

From tensions and conflict in Ukraine to Israel/Palestine, the continued rise of India – and China, global elections, including the U.S.; global leaders must also consider a climate crisis, populism, and the impact of AI in an increasingly polarised world. Join the discussion on the issues and solutions.

SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)

Consent

In partnership with the Young Women's Movement and the Scottish Youth Parliament

11:00am - 12:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

Every young person should know what healthy relationships are and what they look like, both in-person and online. Join the panel to discuss how young people can be supported in their understanding of healthy relationships, safe spaces, and consent.

Sexism in the workplace

In partnership with the Young Women's Movement and the Scottish Youth Parliament

1:00pm - 2:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

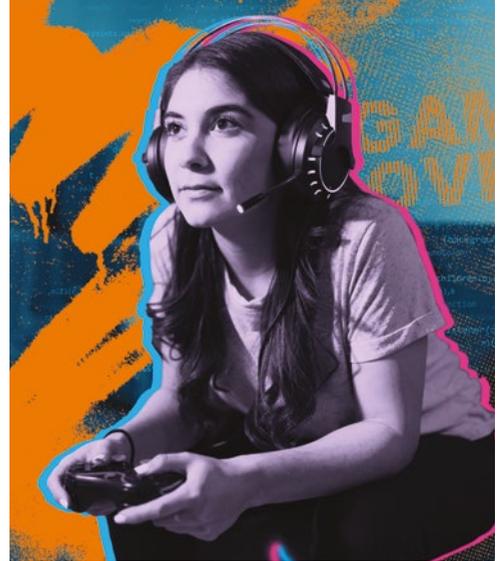
Young Women's Trust found that half of the women surveyed between 18 and 30 years old experienced discrimination in the workplace. How can structural challenges from microaggressions to blocked opportunities, impact women in the workplace? Can positive leadership and zero tolerance ensure everyone feels safe and empowered at work?

GameApocalypse now: can games solve Scotland's digital skills crisis?

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Scotland's Games Ecosystem

11:30am - 1:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Prior to starting school many children play, love, and learn from digital games. Then... we lose them. Despite addressing the digital poverty gap, substantive digital industry skills remain in crisis. Could videogames be the secret weapon to ensuring Scotland's new generation of digital pioneers?



Not the end of the world?

In partnership with The Rowett Institute, the University of Aberdeen

1:15pm - 2:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

Doomsday predictions can be a dream for climate deniers. Yet, data says a rethink on everything from the environment to biodiversity and plastics is overdue. While the problems are huge, there is hope that technology, significant societal transformation and a narrative switch could have the world back on track.



Reading between the lines: information literacy

In partnership with the Royal Society of Edinburgh and Childlight Global Child Safety Institute, University of Edinburgh

3:15pm - 4:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

We are bombarded by information that competes for our attention and money. Young people especially need tools to control their own information and to separate fact from fiction. This panel asks: how can we nurture responsible and ethical consumers of information in the digital age?



25 years of the Scottish Parliament – where are the young women?

In partnership with the Young Women's Movement and the Scottish Youth Parliament

3:30pm - 5:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Women represent 52% of the Scottish population but only 46% of MSPs. The democratic deficit has heralded calls for political change including from the Presiding Officer, whose audit into how women are represented in the Parliament kickstarted a series of initiatives to address the issue. What needs to be done in the next 25 years to break down barriers to political participation and increase representation?

Join the Climate Café®

All day / FREE

Welcome to the pop-up, safe space to chat and act on climate change. No need to be a climate expert as all perspectives are welcomed in a very inclusive space. Free refreshments and biscuits. See festivalofpolitics website for more information.

CLIMATECAFÉ®



SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT



FRIDAY

23 AUGUST 2024

POLLING STATION

Mental health and young people

In partnership with Healing Arts Scotland and the Scottish Youth Parliament

10:45am - 12:15pm / £7.50, £5.00

What is the potential of the arts and culture to relieve stress, build resilience, and develop vital social connections among young people? How and who is using music, dance, visual art, and creative expression to help the health and healing of young people experiencing mental health issues?

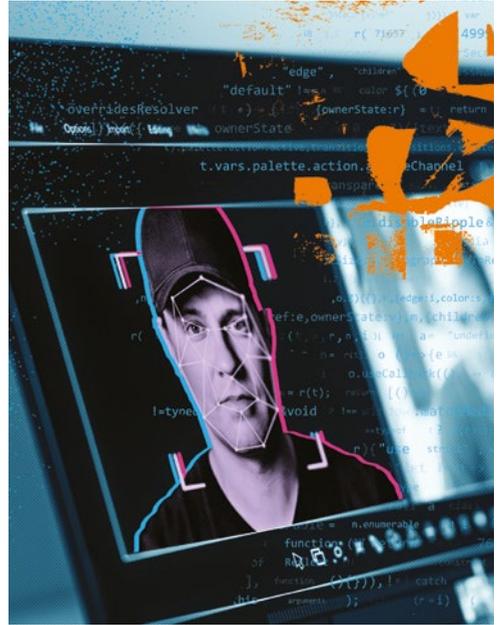
SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)

AI – deep fake politics

In partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum

11:00am - 12:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

There seems to be an alarming rise in convincing deep fake AI generated misinformation and its potential to destabilise democratic systems. With the political communications industry poised to adopt technologies at scale, who will establish norms on reliability, privacy and accountability on political communication?



Raising the curtain on St Andrew's Day

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on St Andrew's Day

11:30am - 1:00pm / £7.50, £5.00

Join the discussion on looking back and looking forward to St Andrew's Day. Understand the history and the adoption of our national day. Explore how we increase the relevance, resonance and opportunity provided by having a patron saint celebrated both in Scotland and internationally.



Incel culture

1:00pm - 2:30pm / £7.50, £5.00

The rise of 'incel' (involuntary celibate) culture where ideologies of blame, distrust and hatred towards women, have gained huge traction online. Why are so many young men seduced by this toxic masculinity, what are policymakers doing and what tools are educators and youth workers using to address this?

Elections in 50 countries

In partnership with the University of Glasgow

1:15pm - 2:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

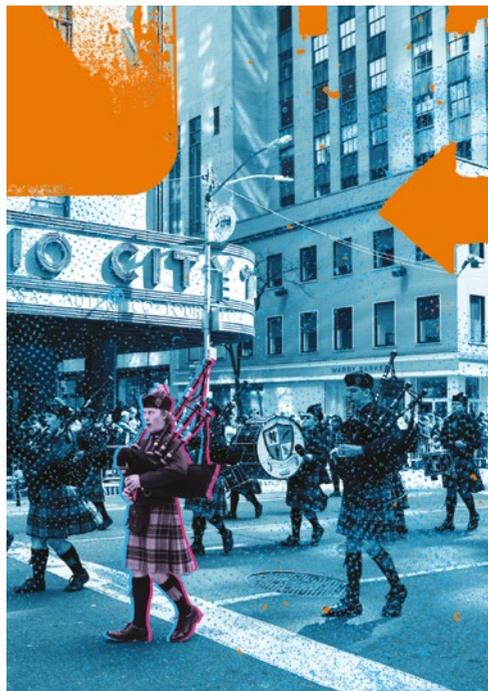
Billions of voters go to the polls across the globe this year, so what are the implications for geopolitics, human rights, and international relations? What about ballots that may not always be free or void of disinformation and manipulation and where does this leave healthy democracy?

Think local, act global? - international cultural ambition in perilous times

In partnership with the Cross-Party Group on Culture and Communities

1:15pm - 2:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

A global stage allows Scotland to showcase its creativity and wield influence. However, in a world grappling with post-pandemic challenges, Brexit repercussions, climate crises, and shrinking budgets, international working is increasingly difficult. How can Scotland's culture sector fulfil its global ambitions during unpredictable times?



Responsible debate

In partnership with the Centre for Responsible Debate

3:15pm - 4:45pm / £7.50, £5.00

As the world becomes more polarised it is becoming clearer that the way we debate and discuss important issues is preventing us from reaching solutions. How can we debate and discuss in a way that deals with the important challenges facing us?



The Scottish Parliament at 25

In partnership with Scotland's Futures Forum

4:00pm - 5:30pm / £10.00, £8.00

Established with optimism, ambition, and an aim to do things differently, and based on principles of accountability and transparency, the Scottish Parliament has passed world-leading legislation and imbued a self-confidence in its electorate since 1999.

So, what are its strengths and achievements and where can it do better? Join this panel to both look back, but more importantly, to look forward to the next 25 years, exploring the constitutional, national, and global challenges facing the Scottish Parliament and how it remains relevant to Scotland.



SEE THE FULL LINEUP AT [FESTIVALOFPOLITICS.SCOT](https://www.festivalofpolitics.scot)

EXHIBITIONS

Healing Arts Scotland

Created by the International Teaching Artists Collaborative (ITAC) in the run up to Healing Arts Scotland, the project brought together participatory arts and health initiatives from all over Scotland. Works were made by groups including Articulate Hub, Bazooka Arts, Fruitmarket Gallery, Heart of Newhaven Meeting Centre, and Project Ability.



Scottish Youth Parliament at 25

A showcase of archive materials to mark the 25th anniversary of the Scottish Youth Parliament, selected by a group of MSYPs from material held by the National Library of Scotland and exhibited especially at the Festival of Politics.



Where do you see Scotland in 2049?

To mark the 25th anniversaries of the Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Youth Parliament, Edinburgh International Book Festival's Schools Writer-in-Residence, Ryan Van Winkle invited members of the SYP to share their visions and campaigns for election in Scotland 2049. Hear from the young people in a pop-up exhibition about which issues are at the core of their campaign and why they want to lead the nation in Scotland 2049.

TICKETING INFO

All tickets can be booked online at **festivalofpolitics.scot** and will be available to buy up to two hours before each event. A limited number of tickets can be booked in-person on the day at the Ticket Desk in the Festival Café Bar. Arrival at least 30 minutes prior to the event starting is advised.

Other information

Information is correct at time of going to print but please check the online programme in advance of attending **www.festivalofpolitics.scot**

We reserve the rights to change or cancel any event. We cannot offer refunds or exchanges unless an event is cancelled.

CRÛCHE

The crèche will be open on Tuesday 20, Wednesday 21 and Thursday 22 August between 10.00am and 6.00pm for anyone who wishes to book a place. Please contact **0131 348 6192** or email **creche@parliament.scot**

Pricing

Concessions are available to children aged 5-16 years, Young Scot card holders, people aged 60 and over, students, unemployed people and disabled people. Access to the Festival Café Bar is FREE.

Contact us

You can call us Monday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm on **0131 348 5000** or email **festivalofpolitics@parliament.scot**

Privacy

Our privacy and data sharing policy can be found at **parliament.scot/privacy**

FREE HOT DRINK

A free hot tea/coffee or flavoured water is available to all ticket-holders post-event*

* This excludes any barista style teas or coffees.

FESTIVAL OF POLITICS

AN FHÈIS PHOILITIGS

FESTIVAL CAFÉ BAR



Join us in the lively FREE Festival Café Bar for a programme of choirs, exhibitions, and a very special performance from Scottish Opera as part of this year's programme of free entertainment.

Please see **Festival of Politics website** for the full line-up.

Scottish Opera - In Flagrante

Friday 23 August, 3:00pm - 3:15pm
A special performance of a light-hearted short opera featuring three government ministers who find themselves in a 'morning after the night before' situation – and then the spin-doctor arrives!

Thank you to all our partners:



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Join In

Gabh Pàirt

Image courtesy of The Eric Liddell Community

Eric Liddell

Legacy of an

Olympic Legend

25 July to 12 September 2024

The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
Monday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm
(last entry 4.30pm)

FREE ENTRY

parliament.scot/ericliddell

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