



# Lichfield Science & Engineering Society

LICHFIELD GARRICK  
*Theatre & Studio*

CHAIRMAN  
Mike Beeson

PATRON  
Mr Ian Dudson CBE  
HM Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire

PRESIDENT  
Professor Carolyn Roberts  
FRGS, FIEEnvSc, FCIWEM, CEnv, CWEM

**8:00 pm on Thursday, 3rd December 2020**  
**A virtual lecture via Zoom**

## **THE PSYCHOLOGY OF COGNITIVE ILLUSIONS OR HOW THE BRAIN IS TRICKED**

Professor Nicola Clayton FRS  
Professor Clive Wilkins MMC  
University of Cambridge

Professor Nicky Clayton FRS is Professor of Comparative Cognition in the Department of Psychology at the University of Cambridge. She is particularly interested in the processes of thinking with and without words, and in comparisons between the cognitive abilities of corvids (members of the crow family) and children. She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2010 and has been Scientist-in-Residence at Rambert (formerly Ballet Rambert), since 2011.

Professor Clive Wilkins MMC is Artist-in-Residence in the Department of Psychology, a position he has held since 2012. Clive is a fine art painter and writer, and was elected a Member of the Magic Circle in 2018. His paintings have been frequently seen in London Mayfair art galleries. His written work has appeared often in print, most notably 'The Creatures in the Night', a story written and illustrated by him in 2008 and more recently 'The Moustachio Quartet'.

Nicky and Clive met on a dance floor. They are co-founders of The Captured Thought, an arts and science collaboration that explores the subjective experience of thinking and the nature of creativity. Both lecture in Science and Arts venues all over the globe and hold Visiting Professorships at several Chinese Universities.

Their talk will explore what cognitive illusions reveal about the psychology of the human mind; not just perception but also memory and the ability to mentally travel in time, to revisit our past experiences and reflect upon them, and to explore places we have yet to visit and imagine what they will be like. Magic effects also illuminate some important things about Theory of Mind, our ability to think about what others might be thinking, both on the part of the audience and on the part of the magician. Both mental time travel and theory of mind are constrained by egocentric bias, our tendency to overvalue the present self over other selves and other times.