

INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURES



INAUGURAL PROFESSORIAL LECTURE SERIES



ABOUT

The Ravensbourne University London Inaugural Professorial Lecture Series marks a pivotal moment in the institution's academic evolution, celebrating the appointment of five distinguished scholars whose exceptional contributions exemplify leadership, innovation and excellence. This lecture series honours individuals who have demonstrated outstanding distinction within their respective fields, whilst making significant contributions to the strategic objectives of the University.

The conferment of the title of Professor recognises not merely academic achievement, but a profound commitment to shaping the future of education, research and knowledge exchange. These scholars play a pivotal role in developing Ravensbourne's academic provision, supporting students in effective learning and research and driving forward the University's Research and Knowledge Exchange Strategy. Their work extends beyond traditional academic boundaries, forging meaningful connections between theory and practice, academia and industry, creativity and commerce.



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Professor
Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas
18 February 2026



Professor
Christos Manolas
18 March 2026



Professor
Shaun Borstrock
18 March 2026



Professor
Tracey Cockerton Tattersall
22 April 2026



Professor
Chi Maher
27 May 2026





NATASCHA RADCLYFFE-THOMAS

PROFESSOR OF MARKETING
AND SUSTAINABLE FASHION

CAN FASHION SAVE THE WORLD? AND WHY SHOULD IT?

In this Inaugural Professorial Lecture, Can fashion save the world? And why should it?, Natascha Radclyffe-Thomas EdD FRSA, Professor of Marketing and Sustainable Fashion at Ravensbourne University London will share her research into sustainable fashion, responsible business, and teaching for sustainable development.

Natascha has extensive international experience, and the lecture will cover several aspects of her multi-faceted research and teaching career and how her passion for teaching with empathy and her personal concerns about the existing fashion system, led to a series of innovative outcomes across research, teaching and pedagogy. Natascha will share her extensive research and writing on sustainable fashion and her reflections on the creative ways in which individuals and communities are addressing the fashion industry's negative impacts and reputation, through cultural heritage,

craft, education and responsible business. In framing the context of the lecture, Natascha will outline how over-production in the fashion industry contributes to the climate emergency, nature loss and increasing inequality, linking the expansion of the global fashion system with negative impacts on people and planet in the largely unregulated pursuit of profit.

Referencing her own personal and professional experiences as an international fashion academic, along with her roles within organisations such as The Costume Society and the United Nations-supported initiative Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME), Natascha will expand on concepts such as sustainable development, sharing examples of her work with pioneering individuals and organisations who are challenging the status quo and creating fashion and operating fashion businesses in more sustainable ways.



CHRISTOS MANOLAS

PROFESSOR OF AUDIO PRODUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY

STRINGS, MACHINES, CABLES AND SCREENS: AN UNLIKELY JOURNEY INTO IMMERSIVE SOUND AND MEDIA

This lecture traces the evolution of a multidisciplinary research career spanning music, audio production, computer science, and immersive media. Professor Manolas explores how a diverse range of experiences — from classical performance and metal music production to software development, gaming, and audiovisual experimentation — have shaped his approach to sound and media research. Grounded in the work of Ravensbourne University’s AVM Lab, the lecture begins with biographical reflections and an introduction to key concepts in spatial and immersive audio, illustrating their application across traditional and emerging audiovisual forms, including film, games, stereoscopic 3D media and virtual reality. It then broadens in scope to examine how production techniques, perceptual science, and emerging technologies intersect to transform storytelling and audience engagement. Ultimately, the lecture argues for the power of interdisciplinary exploration as a driver of innovation in media creation, perception, and human experience.

SHAUN BORSTROCK

PROFESSOR OF LUXURY AND CONSUMER CULTURE



IN PURSUIT OF LUXURY

This inaugural Professorial Lecture by Professor Shaun Borstrock PhD FRSA explores the dynamic intersections of design, technology and luxury and how these relationships shape contemporary understandings of value and desire. With a career defined by extensive international consulting with purveyors of luxury goods and services, brands and institutions around the world, he shares insights shaped by creativity, risk taking and collaboration that have led to his professorship at Ravensbourne University London.

The lecture begins with his early work in fashion and moves through the development of In Pursuit of Luxury and the 3D-printed textile innovation Modeclix, reflecting on how collaboration influences creative practice, business strategy and technological exploration. Professor Borstrock considers the role of design, craftsmanship and sustainable luxury in preserving skills and practices rooted in historical understandings of luxury.

He examines how branding and experiential approaches often prioritise visual storytelling and brand narratives over the tangible touch of the craftsman’s hand. This shift can challenge and reframe traditional narratives surrounding exclusivity, expertise and value. Throughout, he underlines the importance of questioning the status quo and asking who luxury is for and how it might evolve.

As the discussion widens to academic leadership, innovation funding and global networks, the lecture opens up new ways of thinking about interdisciplinary research and industry engagement in the luxury sector and beyond. Ultimately, this is not simply an account of personal progression but a provocation to reconsider what we choose to preserve in luxury, what we are prepared to change and how embracing new perspectives, risk and failure might enable more meaningful forms of innovation.



TRACEY COCKERTON TATTERSALL

PROFESSOR
OF LEARNING
INNOVATION AND
APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY

PSYCHOLOGY OF LEARNING INNOVATION: APPLYING PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE TO TRANSFORMING EDUCATIONAL, PROFESSIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT

This inaugural presentation examines how psychological theory, evidence and principles have been systematically applied to innovate learning practices across educational, professional and therapeutic contexts, working with different industry and professional sectors as well as with children, young people and adults. Drawing on learning theory, socio-cognitive psychology and individual differences research, this lecture charts the development of work from theoretical frameworks to practical applications in educational, technological, professional and personal learning contexts.

Central to the discussion is the application of psychological theory to enhancing learning experiences and shaping individual development.

The lecture critically examines how psychological constructs such as self-efficacy, emotional intelligence and stress management translate into practical training interventions, and how technology can enhance learning environments and experiences.

The importance of the 'scientist-practitioner' model is emphasised, demonstrating how rigorous evaluation can validate and challenge learning innovations. The presentation concludes by exploring and addressing contemporary issues: How can psychological science improve how people learn - in the 'classroom', in professional practice, and as part of our personal learning? And what role should technology play in supporting human learning and expertise?

CHI MAHER

PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC
POLICY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP
AND HUMAN RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT



CAREER MANAGEMENT NOW AND ONWARDS: WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Career management is the process that enables individuals to design and implement plans and strategies to help them achieve their future career goals. Furthermore, proactive career planning, educational qualifications, work experience, continuous learning and development, self-motivation, adaptability to organisational needs, and alignment with core organisational values and missions, empower individuals to pursue their career goals with confidence.

However, careers are no longer approached as stable or static. Instead, they are understood as complex, dynamic, and ever-evolving processes that cross national, international, and organisational boundaries. Given the turbulent environment of the past decade and with every indication that the future will be one of rapid change, increased competition, continued changes in the employment relationship in organisations across the globe, organisations will need employees who are able to grow and change correspondingly regardless of the type of work on offer. The responsibility for managing one's career has never been more critical or more personal.

It is essential for individuals to take ownership of their future career trajectories, in line with their personal needs and aspirations, by actively pursuing career opportunities both within and beyond their organisations.



Ravensbourne
University London

research@rave.ac.uk