EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL

science
festival

1 — 16 April 2017

2017 FESTIVAL
OUR CONNECTED WORLD

"Recognize that the very molecules that make up your body, the atoms that construct the molecules, are traceable to the crucibles that were once the centres of high-mass stars that exploded their chemically rich guts into the galaxy, enriching pristine gas clouds with the chemistry of life. So that we are all connected to each other biologically, to the earth chemically and to the rest of the universe atomically. That's kind of cool!"

NEIL deGRASSE TYSON, ASTROPHYSICIST

OUR CONNECTED WORLD

An exploration of the Information/Digital Age and the intersection of science and technology with the digital and creative industries.

2017 is the Scottish Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. It also marks the 70th anniversary of the post war foundation of the first Edinburgh festivals as places of creativity, free expression of ideas and friendship. In this special year, all major Edinburgh festivals will re-visit this theme's relevance in a 21st century context and the Science Festival is no different.

We live in complex times. The Manufacturing Age has given way to the Information Age, characterised by the shift from mechanical, and electronic to digital technology. This has led to the rise of a knowledge-based society surrounded by a high-tech global economy based on the computerisation of information.

Information is everywhere and the evolution of technology in daily life and social organisation makes the modernisation of information and communication processes the driving force of social evolution.

This brings us great opportunities and great challenges and in 2017 we will embark on an exploration of the ways in which science and technology connect us. Looking at these connections across disciplines, societies and as individuals we will have a special focus on the question of what it means to live in such a data rich world.

OUR
CONNECTED WORLD

Festival events will be programmed around the following strands:

ABOUT EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL 2017

Edinburgh International Science Festival, founded in 1989, is an educational charity that aims to inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to discover the world around them.

Celebrating the theme of *Our Connected World* and split into the five broad strands described here, the 2017 Festival will also contain a number of popular returning event series, plus all the regular favourites and special events, details of which are outlined on the following pages.

We'll be taking over the City Art Centre, Summerhall and the National Museum of Scotland as our main hubs. In addition partner events around the city will ensure that for two weeks at Easter, Edinburgh will truly be a city with science at its heart.

TECHNOLOGY AND ME

Our personal interaction with technology for health and happiness.

#cognitiveenhancement, #e-health, #healthcare, #mindfulness, #neuroscience, #personalelectronics, #poppsychology, #prosthetics #syntheticbiology, #telemedicine, #transhumanism, #wellbeing

The human body and brain are some of the most connected objects in the universe; responsible for everything we think, do and are. Technological advances and collaboration between science and the digital and creative industries are shedding new light on some of the biggest questions on the mind, consciousness, health and the brain. This strand will explore the opportunities and challenges that this brings raising some intriguing questions along the way.

OUR WIRED WORLD

We will investigate he roles that science and technology play in how we live, work, learn and interact with others.

#education, #coding, #digitalcommunications, #digitaleducation, #foodproductionanddistribution, #globalmanufacturing, #networks, #informatics, #innovation, #internetofthings, #seriousgaming, #travelandtransport

In a data-rich world, increasingly dependent on science and technology, the Information Age impacts on all aspects of our lives. We investigate how this networked world affects how we live, work, learn and interact with others.

PLAY ON
Entertainment, leisure and play in an increasingly technological world.

#animation, #AR, #arts, #creativeindustries, #datavisualisation, #digital/electronic art, #film, #gaming, #immersivetech, #interactivemedia, #multimedia, #specialeffects, #transmediaart, #sci-fi, #TV, #virtualreality, #wearabletech/computing

TECHNO TRIBES
As the digital revolution continues to progress, we ask to what extent is broader s broader society is impacted and how will it be altered in the future.

#bigdata, #bitcoins, #e-commerce, #citizenscience, #cybercrime, #clicktivism, #socialconscience, #darkweb, #dataprotectionandprivacy, #digitaldivide, #accessandequity, #e-democracy, #finance, #globaleconomics, #hacking, #knowledgeeconomy, #netocracy, #opensource, #socialmedia, #sociallives

GLOBAL VILLAGE
Harnessing technology for success and sustainability of our connected world.

#cleantech, #climatechange, #energy, #environment, #geo-engineering, #off-grid, #population, #smartmaterials, #sustainablecities/architecture, #weather, #urbandesign

It is commonly said that we have more computing power in our pockets than the amount which took man to the moon. Personal electronics are a ubiquitous part of our lives and the impact of this on how we entertain ourselves and play has, for many, been one of the most tangible personal impacts of the Information Age. We celebrate the innovation and invention that occurs when science, technology and engineering meet the digital and creative industries and explore how technology enables creatives to realise their vision.

We ask to what extent – as the digital revolution progresses – broader society is impacted and will be altered in the future. From banking and politics to privacy, copyright, censorship and information sharing, we explore the challenges and opportunities that the computerisation of information brings.

Building on the theme of our 2016 Festival, we look at the role of the digital revolution in our attempts to deal with some of the biggest challenges we face as a global society. We explore the power and potential that human creativity and innovation have to help us work together to share ideas and solve problems – across boundaries, borders, disciplines and cultures – to help build a better world.