

Creative thinking Do machines listen?

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2015, led by Paddy Gormley

This summer, Paddy celebrates ten joyous years of weekly classes at Crisis Skylight.

To mark the occasion, we repeat one of his all-time favourite programmes (from 2010): *Do machines listen?*

The topics are unchanged, but the machines (and therefore also our conversations) have moved on.

14th April: Television: end of conversation?

21st April: Telephones: talking to ourselves

28th April: Computers: who needs people?

5th May: Is literacy out of date?

12th May: Do chat rooms matter?

19th May: Creativity: why bother?

26th May: Equality equals mediocrity?

2nd June: Who's listening?

9th June: Surveillance sobriety

16th June: The integrity of the machine

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **Abiding in equality**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2015, led by Paddy Gormley

Sometimes it seems as if we are doomed forever to live in abiding inequality.

We consider ten obstacles that seem to prevent us from abiding in equality. To what extent can they be overcome?

<i>13th January:</i>	<i>hierarchy</i>
<i>20th January:</i>	<i>money</i>
<i>27th January:</i>	<i>knowledge</i>
<i>3rd February:</i>	<i>achievement</i>
<i>10th February:</i>	<i>self-image</i>
<i>17th February:</i>	<i>ancestry</i>
<i>24th February:</i>	<i>physical prowess</i>
<i>3rd March:</i>	<i>language</i>
<i>10th March:</i>	<i>corruption</i>
<i>17th March:</i>	<i>qualifications</i>

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking It's just a theory

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2014, led by Paddy Gormley

We explore ten propositions that may seem obvious (or obviously wrong), to see whether they stand up to closer scrutiny.

7th October: More equal than others

Universal equality is an impossible dream.

14th October: I know, I know

Logic holds the key to all knowledge.

21st October: It's obvious, stupid!

If almost everyone believes it, it must be true.

28th October: Atomic query

Everything is constructed from tiny particles.

4th November: The final frontier

The universe is finite.

11th November: Beyond the final frontier

The creative realm is infinite.

18th November: Superman

There are civilisations more advanced than ours.

25th November: On your marks...

Everything began with the Big Bang.

2nd December: Who dares wins

Success breeds success.

9th December: You can do it

Nothing is impossible.

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking Immaterial values

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2014, led by Paddy Gormley

**Every material thing may have its price,
but to what extent can money buy
immaterial things?**

15th April: empathy

22nd April: integrity

29th April: peace

6th May: loyalty

13th May: justice

20th May: fulfilment

27th May: imagination

3rd June: truth

10th June: experience

17th June: intelligence

**Our creative thinking sessions
are uplifting, friendly and fun**

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Co-operation or Conspiracy?

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2014, led by Paddy Gormley

14th January: True or false?

How do we recognise truth?

21st January: That's politics

Are conspiracies inevitable in monopolies and oligarchies?

28th January: Stand aside, weakling

Why are we so intent on getting our own way?

4th February: One in a squillion

How fine is the line between improbability and impossibility?

11th February: The lesser of two evils

Are conspiracies sometimes necessary?

18th February: White lies

Why can't we always be truthful?

25th February: Trusts in me

Can conspirators ever be trusted?

4th March: The plot thickens

Why do conspiracy theories never die?

11th March: Greater good

Can conspiracies ever be a force for good?

18th March: Nowhere to hide

Would the world be a better place without secrets?

CO-OPERATION: *the action of working together for the same purpose... so that all may share the benefits.*

CONSPIRACY: *combination of people for an unlawful or a reprehensible purpose; a plot.* (OED)

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **No pain, no gain**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2013, led by Paddy Gormley

Polar opposites are inter-dependent: we can't have one without the other.

Often, each feeds upon the other.

In this series of conversations, we examine the relationships between such sharply contrasting pairs.

It doesn't matter whether these are precise opposites. What matters is that the pairs are, broadly speaking, mutually exclusive.

8th October: right / wrong

15th October: joy / misery

22nd October: include / exclude

29th October: love / hate

5th November: do / don't

12th November: self / others

19th November: success / failure

26th November: yes / no

3rd December: justice / injustice

10th December: certainty / doubt

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **Wild Hypotheses**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2013, led by Paddy Gormley

Could it be that? ... [wild hypothesis] ... and, if so, what then?

9th April: Unintelligent life

... So-called inanimate objects have intelligence ...

16th April: Blindsight

... There is a sixth sense that we cannot hope to understand (in the same way that someone born blind cannot understand sight) ...

23rd April: Just desserts

... Whether or not we get what we want in life, we ultimately get what we deserve ...

30th April: Out of the air

... Our minds are not stores of information, but receiving stations for external information ...

7th May: To be or not to be

... Life and death are matters of perception, and not matters of fact ...

14th May: Sure thing

... Certainty is self-deception ...

21st May: The great scientist

... Like laboratory rats, we are creatures in an inscrutable experiment ...

28th May: Don't panic

... Disaster is a force for good ...

4th June: The immaterial world

... The material world is a product of our imagination ...

11th June: Out of mind?

... Brains and minds are not the same thing ...

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

The customer is always wrong

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2013, led by Paddy Gormley

8th January: None of the above

Do organisations care about people?

15th January: Mr & Ms Computer

Putting machines in place of employees seems to make economic sense. But is it right?

22nd January: Do as I say, not as I do

Can organisations ever tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth?

29th January: Up, up and away

Does power always corrupt?

5th February: Security impasse

Are we now presumed guilty until proven innocent?

12th February: Living on borrowed time

Is debt the new slavery?

19th February: Organisations behaving badly

Do people lose sight of their ideals when they're part of a team?

26th February: Chips off the old block

Do better technologies make us better people?

5th March: The customer has no right

Can there be justice in a legal system ruled by money?

12th March: Work-life balance

What is the right balance between thinking for ourselves and following instructions?

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **The animal in us**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2012, led by Paddy Gormley

18th September: Know your plaice

How do fish organise their leisure time?

25th September: Pride of lions

Are physical prowess and aggression relevant in civilised society?

2nd October: Peacock feathers

Are we too obsessed with appearances?

9th October: Sly the fox

Is honesty the best policy?

16th October: The tortoise and the hare

Are we running too fast for our own good?

23rd October: Lap dogs

Are we too trusting?

30th October: Squirrel Nutkin

Should we be allowed to accumulate more than we need?

6th November: Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full

Are we, like sheep, too much inclined to follow the flock?

13th November: Worker ants

Should we dedicate our lives to the service of others?

20th November: Wise owls

Where is wisdom to be found?

**Our creative thinking sessions
are uplifting, friendly and fun**

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **Double-Edged Words**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2012, led by Paddy Gormley

3rd April: Inclusion

We need to be included, but is the price of inclusion worth paying?

10th April: Superiority

Are some people more equal than others?

17th April: Prosperity

Is there any correlation between economic growth and human happiness?

24th April: Entertainment

Are we in danger of wasting our lives away as passive spectators?

1st May: Progress

Do we ever learn from the mistakes of our ancestors?

8th May: Routine

Are the old ways always the best?

15th May: Pay

Are we making the best use of our time when we trade it for money?

22nd May: Health

Do pills, procedures and preventative medicines make us better people?

29th May: Individuality

How may we balance our predilection for trusted solutions with our innate creativity?

5th June: Change

What use are our opinions and ideas if we do not translate them into effective actions?

**Our creative thinking sessions
are uplifting, friendly and fun**

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking World without ...

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2012, led by Paddy Gormley

Each week this term, we examine one of the many things we take for granted by imagining a world without it.

It does not matter that the resulting scenarios are fanciful, even nonsensical. Our conversation is primarily concerned with the ways in which our values and behaviours are shaped by the ideas, ideologies and institutions at work in our lives.

10th January: World without television

17th January: World without historical evidence

24th January: World without private transport

31st January: World without art and music

7th February: World without weapons

14th February: World without science

21st February: World without creative thinking

28th February: World without ownership

6th March: World without deception

13th March: World without face to face communication

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking (Un)civilisation

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2011, led by Paddy Gormley

27th September: The animal in us

If evolution theory is correct, we are animals.
But will we ever be tamed?

4th October: Urban myth

Are our cities too large?

11th October: Monetary values

Is money the best measure of human value?

18th October: (In)security

Should we expect to be protected against all ills
in a civilised society?

25th October: (In)tolerance

Why can't we seem to live and let live?

1st November: Bureaucracy

Computers give order to our lives. Are they,
therefore, a force for civilisation?

8th November: Instant everything

If we could always get what we want when we
want, what could we possibly want?

15th November: Borders and other barriers

Is it ever right to exclude people?

22nd November: Little boxes

How may we strike an effective balance between
the conflicting imperatives of privacy and social
engagement?

29th November: Sustainability

Are we abusing our position as custodians of the
world?

**Our creative thinking sessions
are uplifting, friendly and fun**

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **Double-Edged Words**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2011, led by Paddy Gormley

5th April: Culture

Are we living in the past?

12th April: Aspiration

If advertising reflects our aspirations, do we aspire to the right things?

19th April: Certainty

We cannot predict the future, so why bother making plans?

26th April: Trust

We need to trust others, but are we too trusting?

3rd May: Society

What right have we to have rights?

10th May: Hardship

Would our lives be better if all our wishes came true?

17th May: Selfishness

Are we ever right to put our own interests before those of others?

24th May: Confrontation

Confrontation gives rise to conflict, but where would we be without it?

31st May: Power

Why do we permit others to rule our lives?

7th June: Knowledge

Is anything impossible?

**Our creative thinking sessions
are uplifting, friendly and fun**

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak

Creative thinking **Seeing is deceiving**

Tuesdays 3 - 5 pm, Performing Arts Room

a series of 10 x 2-hour conversations for 2011, led by Paddy Gormley

11th January: The country of the blind

How might humanity be different if there were no such thing as sight?

18th January: Perceiving is believing

How trustworthy is the evidence of our eyes?

25th January: Defective perspective

How meaningful are our perceptions of our environment?

1st February: Blinded by science

Material reality is entirely a matter of perception. Why should we believe in science?

8th February: There's always tomorrow

What is time?

15th February: Out of sight

Which is more informative: research or imagination?

22nd February: Possessions vs people

To what extent are our values shaped by our belief in material existence?

1st March: What am I?

If the material universe is an illusion, what is humanity?

8th March: The evolution of ideas

We think we understand the evolution of the universe, but what about the evolution of ideas?

15th March: I think, therefore I doubt

What, if anything, do we actually know for sure?

Our creative thinking sessions are uplifting, friendly and fun

- Drop in at any time and be sure of a warm welcome
- Engage in wonderful conversation with thoughtful people
- Inspire others and be inspired by them
- Meet men and women from diverse cultures and backgrounds
- Gain confidence in expressing yourself
- Improve your English language skills
- Learn creative thinking techniques
- Find new friendships based on mutual respect and understanding

We focus on a new topic every week

- Discussions are based on open questions with many possible answers
- Participants respond according to personal knowledge and experience
- Everyone's ideas are valued equally
- We help and encourage anyone who lacks confidence in spoken English
- Participants are free to choose whether to speak and when to speak