

THE ROYAL PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (SCIO) CHARITY NO. SC015557



216th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 28th March 2018

Will Hutton

The Enlightenment under siege – time to fight back



ABSTRACT

Academic freedom is the soil in which knowledge flourishes. The freedom to research, to follow where evidence leads, to argue, to be challenged, to exchange ideas freely and to disseminate the results lie at the heart of academic life. Immanuel Kant captured the spirit that animates universities when he said that knowledge was a process in which human beings dared to know. The great advances in science and medicine over the past 250 years, along with the breakthrough understandings offered by social sciences and the humanities, would have been impossible without this Enlightenment mindset. It is these freedoms, entrenched because of universities' constitutional autonomy, that have allowed our civilisation to achieve what it has. Yet all this is now under attack.

BIOGRAPHY

Will Hutton is a British political economist, writer, weekly newspaper columnist and former editor-in-chief for The Observer. He is currently Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, and Chair of the Big Innovation Centre, an initiative from the Work Foundation (formerly the Industrial Society), having been chief executive of the Work Foundation from 2000 to 2008. He is widely known for his advocacy of centre-left policies, criticisms of the neoliberal economic consensus, and his long association with key members and policies of the Labour Party

LINKS

<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/willhutton>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East. Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.

Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.

Visitors Welcome