

## Professor Cordelia Fine awarded the Edinburgh Medal for challenging gender stereotypes.

PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE USE TO MARK INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, 8 MARCH

- Bestselling author and academic Professor Cordelia Fine is awarded the 2018 Edinburgh Medal.
- The Medal is a prestigious annual award that recognises scientists who have excelled in their field and have contributed significantly to our understanding and wellbeing of humanity.
- Professor Cordelia Fine will deliver her Edinburgh Medal Address – *Science, Values and Gender Equality, Reflections from the Battleground* – at the City Chambers on 4 April.
- Previous Medal winners include Professor Jane Goodall (1991), Sir David Attenborough (1998) and Professor Peter Higgs and CERN (2013).

The 2018 Edinburgh Medal is awarded to Professor Cordelia Fine whose work challenging societal gender stereotypes makes such a valuable contribution to ongoing efforts to close the gender gap.

Author and Professor of History and Philosophy of Science at the University of Melbourne, Prof Fine's work includes constructive recommendations for scientists, and meticulous debunking of popular notions that *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*, often drawn on to explain and justify continuing gender inequalities within the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) fields and beyond.

Scientific claims and beliefs have long shaped our views about why gender inequalities exist and have been used as ammunition in disagreements about the desirability and feasibility of change.

Prof Fine will deliver the [Edinburgh Medal Address](#) at 7pm, 4 April 2018 at the City Chambers in Edinburgh, this talk will explore the role of science, and values, in our contemporary debates. [More information can be found here.](#)

Of her win, **Prof Fine says:** "It's obviously the most tremendous honour. And I also see it as a wonderful recognition of the importance of the work of scientists – often women – that I write about in my books and draw on in my academic research, who have progressed science by challenging long-held assumptions about the sexes and asking different research questions."

**Amanda Tyndall, Creative and Festival Director at the Edinburgh International Science Festival, says:** "We are absolutely delighted to present Professor Cordelia Fine with the 2018 Edinburgh Medal. Her work makes an invaluable contribution to the gender debate and is a perfect fit with the Festival's commitment to equality and diversity and the championing of the role of women in science."

**Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Frank Ross, says:** "For centuries, Edinburgh has blazed a trail for scientific innovation, invention and debate. Every year, the Edinburgh International Science Festival reminds us of the Scottish Capital's great fascination with discovery. Perhaps most importantly, it also celebrates the strides still being made in science and honours those people who make a lasting contribution."

“This year, we are delighted to honour Professor Cordelia Fine, whose quest to debunk gender stereotypes through psychology has promoted a better understanding of gender equality all over the world, in scientific circles but also in popular culture. I am looking forward to presenting her with the Edinburgh Medal 2018 on behalf of the City and the Festival next month. By recognising pioneers such as Cordelia, I hope we can continue to inspire our young people to follow similar scientific paths.”

Prof Fine’s literary prowess includes a number of awards and recognitions with her latest book *Testosterone Rex* winning the Royal Society Insight Investment Science Book Prize 2017. She is also a regular media voice in *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Monthly* and *New Statesman*.

Born in Toronto, Prof Fine spent her childhood in the United States and Edinburgh. She studied psychology and criminology throughout university, receiving a Ph.D in Psychology from University College London. She has held research positions at a number of Australian Universities, and is currently a Professor at the University of Melbourne. Her full biography can be found on her [website](#).

In recognition of her work the National Library of Scotland will be hosting a special exhibition of items relating to Prof Fine’s scientific and literary work in the field of neuroscience, psychology and gender. These will be on display for the duration of the Science Festival from 31 March to 30 April.

The Edinburgh Medal was instituted by the City of Edinburgh Council in 1988 and is awarded to men and women of science and technology who have made significant contributions to humanity. The Medallist delivers a lecture at the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

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For a full list of previous Edinburgh Medal recipients visit Edinburgh International Science Festival website: [www.sciencefestival.co.uk/edinburgh-medal](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/edinburgh-medal)

The [Edinburgh Medal Address](#) will be at Edinburgh City Chambers, 7pm 4 April 2018. Oration by [Prof Sophie Scott](#), Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience at University College London, vote of thanks by [Prof Lynn Abrams](#), Head of School of Humanities, the University of Glasgow.

The **Edinburgh International Science Festival** for 2018 explores the theme of ‘Life, the Universe and everything else you can think of’ - celebrating the wonder and diversity of life and asks what it means to be ‘alive’ in the 21st century.

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. It marks its 30th Festival in 2018. Each year it delivers the UK’s largest Science Festival with over 270 events for families and adults over the course of two weeks. Its vibrant and varied programmes include everything from fun family days out to talks and discussions from pioneering thinkers. Family festivalgoers can enjoy five floors of sensational science at City Art Centre, world class theatre at Summerhall and a host of hands-on activities and more at the National Museum of Scotland, Summerhall and our other partner venues across Edinburgh.

To browse all Edinburgh International Science Festival events go to [www.sciencefestival.co.uk](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk)

Stay in touch on Twitter @EdSciFest and [www.facebook.com/EdinburghScienceFestival](http://www.facebook.com/EdinburghScienceFestival)

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### **Information on EDF**

EDF Energy is Scotland's largest producer of low-carbon electricity, operating Hunterston B in North Ayrshire, Torness in East Lothian and, through our joint venture EDF Energy Renewables, seven windfarms across Scotland. Together these assets generate enough electricity to power almost 4 million homes and employ more than 1,300 people in Scotland.

The company supplies 98 per cent of public sector bodies in Scotland after being awarded the country's largest electricity supply contract by annual volume from April 2013. EDF Energy has also more than 200,000 customer accounts in Scotland and has launched its own innovation accelerator, Blue Lab, which focuses on making customers' lives easier. Through its Better Energy Ambitions, EDF Energy has developed comprehensive environmental and social programmes which have been recognised by a wide range of organisations.

EDF Energy also runs the Pretty Curious campaign which encourages girls to consider STEM subjects and careers. At the end of 2016 we welcomed more than 350 girls to a series of hands-on workshops in Edinburgh where they were able to hear from female STEM role models and get creative with technology.

EDF Energy is part of EDF Group, the world's biggest electricity generator.

To find out more about the UK's energy challenges visit: [www.edfenergy.com/energyfuture/](http://www.edfenergy.com/energyfuture/)

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