

Café Scientifique Headingley

Monday 8th February 2016 at 7:30pm

Speaker: **Kersten Hall**

Title: **From Dark Satanic Mills to DNA: the Scientific Heritage of Leeds and How it Changed the World**



Outline: When the actress Nicole Kidman recently won an award for her performance as the scientist Rosalind Franklin in the hit play 'Photo 51' that opened in London in October 2015, much attention was deservedly given to the crucial but much overlooked role that Franklin played in one of the biggest scientific discoveries in history - the structure of DNA, the molecule of heredity. But as Dr. Kersten Hall will explain, Leeds has played an important and little known role in this story too, thanks to the work of several scientists whose work has had a massive impact on science and medicine, including the award of two Nobel Prizes - an achievement for which the city can be very proud.

Biog: After graduating from St. Anne's College, Oxford in Biochemistry, Kersten Hall returned to his home city of Leeds where he worked for several years as a research fellow in the field of molecular biology at the School of Medicine, University of Leeds before becoming an Honorary Fellow in the School of Philosophy, Religion and History of Science. His recent book 'The Man in the Monkeynut Coat' (Oxford University Press) which was featured in 'The Guardian' newspaper and shortlisted for the British Society for History of Science 2015 Dingle Prize, tells the story of the pioneering Leeds scientist William Astbury who made early studies of the structure of DNA and whose role as a founding figure in the emerging science of molecular biology has largely been overlooked.

Venue: The New Headingley Club 56 St Michael's Rd., Leeds LS6 3BG

Time: Club opens at 7:00pm for drinks & the room at 7:30; talk begins promptly at 7:45pm

Entry: Donation please for room hire and expenses: **£2 at the door**



Café Scientifique Headingley is a programme run under the auspices of the Headingley Development Trust www.headingleydevelopmenttrust.org.uk