

# The Thread

## **THE THREAD SERIES 5: A 'HOW TO...' GUIDE -**

Listen live from 7.00 to 8.00pm on Resonance 104.4fm - podcasts and more info on The Thread website [www.thethreadradio.org](http://www.thethreadradio.org)

In our fifth series of broadcasts The Thread presents a suite of loosely interrelated conversations, each springing from a set of instructions to our listeners. We take familiar items and experiences such as an elaborate meal, a camouflage kit, a pugilist's punch or a terrorist sighting and examine how they can be assembled, produced, performed or encountered. With our 'How to...' series we try to understand aspects of culture by finding out what makes them work, both practically and conceptually.

### **How to Intervene – Tuesday 8th March**

*Our guests discuss intervention on the personal and political level, and the meaning of sovereignty today.*

Interventions are made in war and peace, at home and in foreign fields. This programme explores what it means to intervene. How are control and influence exerted over others and how are they justified? By considering interventions from a variety of military, psychiatric and activist perspectives this show will explore the necessary ethical, political and medical mandates we need to effect change. Guests will include Michael Rainsborough, Professor of Strategic Theory at King's College London, Wojtek Wojcik, Institute of Psychiatry and Mahlet Getachew Zimeta, Lecturer in Philosophy at Roehampton University.

### **How to Make a Bollywood Movie - Tuesday 15th March**

*Our guests discuss the changing contours of popular Hindi film and the emergence of the Bollywood phenomenon.*

Featuring guests Amita Nijhawan, a dancer and writer based in London, and Daya Thussu, Professor of International Communication and Co-Director of the India Media Centre at the University of Westminster in London. This programme will explore the changing contours of Bollywood, or, popular Hindi cinema, covering the changes in genre, song-dance picturizations, reception and industry structures. What do we mean when we discuss Bollywood, as a relatively current phenomenon, in comparison with the Hindi commercial film industry of old?

### **How to Hide - Tuesday 22nd March**

*Our guests discuss camouflage and dissimulation, and their use in art, politics and public space.*

During the First World War, artists and theatrical prop-makers contributed to the development of what became known as 'camouflage'. What can the history of these dark arts tell us about how we hide today? How have techniques of hiding and dissimulation migrated into political life and public space? And can the art of hiding be reclaimed from its military applications? Our guests, including the cultural historian Patrick Wright (London Consortium) and performance specialist Sophie Nield (Royal Holloway), debate these questions.

### **How to Throw a Punch - Tuesday 29th March**

*Our guests discuss boxing, brawling and the punch.*

Violence, aggression, masculinity, and the enduring romance of pugilism. Guests include Kasia Boddy (University College London), author of *Boxing: A Cultural History* (2008); Steven J Fowler, a poet whose work often explores boxing and the ethos of violence; and Lynda Nead (Birkbeck College), author of *The Female Nude: Art, Obscenity and Sexuality*, and qualified ABA boxing coach.

### **How to Be a Hero - Tuesday 5th April**

*Our guests discuss how to recognise heroism today, its shapes and histories.*

We examine whether, or in what way, heroism is relevant to how we live in the modern world. The current culture of celebrity may reshape how we think of the modern hero and the idea of sacrifice and/or bravery in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. Our guests are: Dr. John Price, an historian at King's College, London, Max Arthur, a former soldier and bestselling author of several books on 20th-century war, and an obituary writer, and Dario Llinares, a postdoctoral student at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies specifically concerned with iconography and mythology around constructions of masculinity.

### **How to Spot a Terrorist - Tuesday 12th April**

*Our guests discuss the practicalities and ethics of contemporary surveillance.*

The presence of terrorists in our midst is a justification for all sorts of political manoeuvres. But how do we decide who these terrorists are, and how do we go about pinpointing them? This show examines questions of surveillance, profiling and definition to consider the power of the idea of the terrorist and how it impacts on the cultural landscape. Featuring Ed Williams (Crossway Foundation), filmmaker Chris Atkins and Professor Simon Hallsworth (London Metropolitan University).

### **How to Think About Things - Tuesday 19th April**

*Our guests discuss their own approaches to an object-oriented way of thinking.*

The things we choose to think about, the reasons we choose to think about them, the ways in which we think about them and the ways in which they make us think, are the issues that this show aims to address. Bringing with them favourite 'thinking things', guests include Isobel Armstrong (Emeritus Professor of English at Birkbeck College), Steven Connor (Professor of Modern Literature and Theory at Birkbeck College), Christopher Pinney (Professor of Anthropology and Visual Culture at University College London) and Aura Satz (artist and writer).

### **How to Cook - Tuesday 26th April**

*Our guests discuss cultures of cuisine.*

This show will explore ideas about what cooking and eating mean to our culture. Dr Bee Wilson, author and food columnist; Dr Len Fisher, Visiting Fellow in Physics at the University of Bristol; and Ivan Day, culinary historian and widely exhibited historical confectioner, will discuss the impact and meaning of our decisions about whether and how to cook, and reveal the historical, scientific and sociological aspects of the ways we prepare and consume our chosen foods.