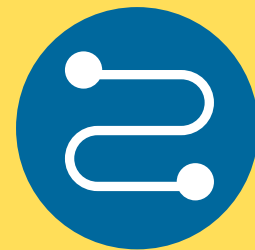# CCIR 少年班

# 剑桥 Re:think
# 论文竞赛 2024

# Discourse, debate, & analysis.

## 竞赛愿景

拓展参赛学生对世界复杂性的认知，促进解决当代社会挑战的方法论探索。

## 关键时间点

提交截止日期：
2024年5月10日

结果公布：
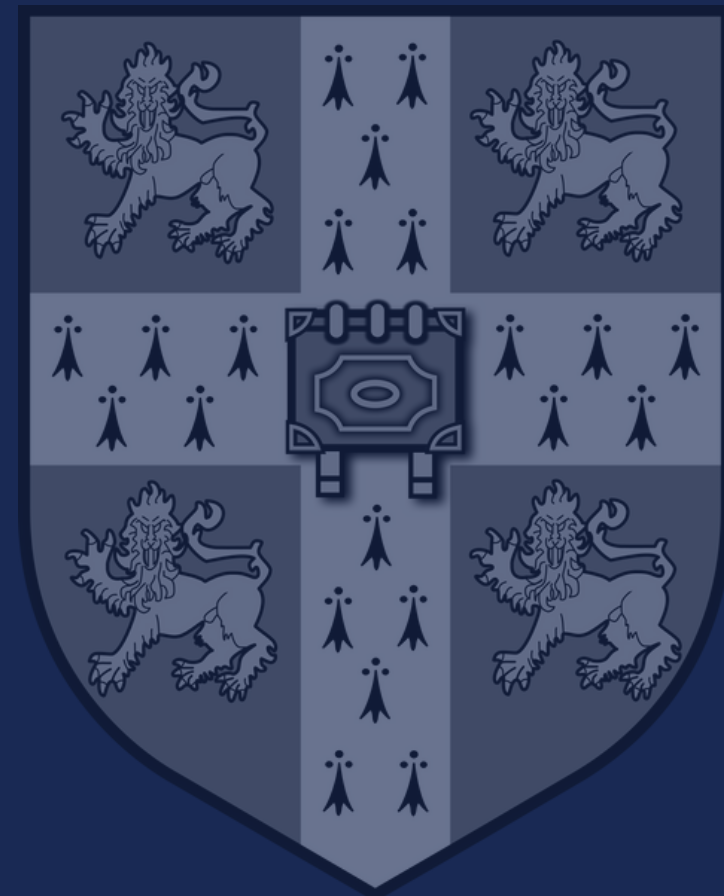2024年6月20日

剑桥颁奖典礼和晚宴：
2024年7月30日

## 适合学生

14到18周岁尚未进入本科学习的学生

报名免费

# 2024 年度论文题目
# 由来自以下大学的教授们提供：

- **Oxford**
- **Cambridge**
- **MIT**
- **Brown**
- **Harvard**
- **UC Berkeley**

# 颁奖晚宴

**获奖者将被邀请参加于2024年7月30日在剑桥大学国王学院举行的颁奖典礼及晚宴。**

国王学院大厅，由著名建筑师威廉·威尔金斯于1820设计，至今被誉为最令人赞叹的建筑之一。自1828年2月举办的首次高桌晚宴以来，这座宏伟的大厅便成为学院成员共聚一堂用餐及举办正式晚宴的重要场所。

# 八位诺奖得主已确定出席并发表演讲

**Dr Thomas R. Cech**
Distinguished Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of Colorado

1989年诺贝尔化学奖得主
发现DNA遗传信息如何转录为RNA

**Dr Joachim Frank**
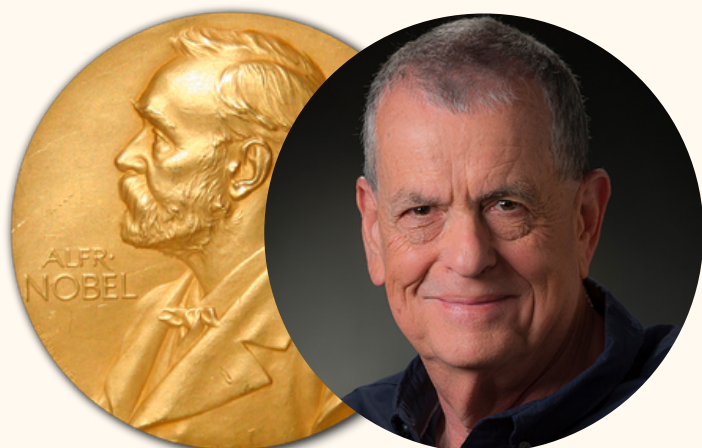Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics, Columbia University

2017年诺贝尔化学奖得主
发明冷冻电子显微技术

**Sir Richard J. Roberts**
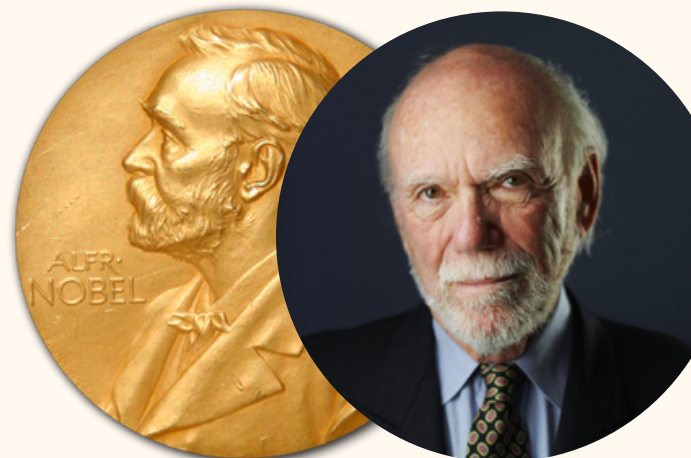Chief Scientific Officer, New England Biolabs

1993年诺贝尔医学奖得主
发现割裂基因

**Dr Aaron Ciechanover**
Distinguished Research Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Israel Institute of Technology

2004年诺贝尔化学奖得主 发现泛素调解的蛋白质降解

**Dr Barry C. Barish**
Professor of Physics, Emeritus, The Division of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, Caltech

2017年物理学奖得主
在引力波方面做了决定性贡献

**Dr Robert Lefkowitz**
The Chancellor's Distinguished Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Duke University

2012年诺贝尔化学奖得主
发现G蛋白偶联受体

**Dr Ardem Patapoutian**
Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Scripps Research

2021年诺贝尔医学奖得主
发现压力如何转化为神经脉冲

**Dr Harvey J. Alter**
Fmr. Chief of the Infectious Disease Section / Department of Transfusion Medicine, National Institutes of Health (USA)

2020年诺贝尔医学奖得主
发现丙型肝炎病毒

# 奖项

**荣誉提名**

全球大约前10%优秀参赛者 将获得这项荣誉。该奖项旨在表彰写作出色、观点独特且展现了出色批判性思维的论文。被授予此奖项的参赛者将获得荣誉证书和参加剑桥晚宴的邀请。

所有成功上传完整文书的参赛者，将获得 CCIR 颁发的电子证书。

## 金奖（全球10名）

– 荣誉证书、150美元的奖金，以及 CCIR 少年班提供的500美元奖学金。
– CCIR 社交媒体专访，分享经验和心得。
– 免费参与在剑桥举办的颁奖典礼和晚宴。

## 银奖（全球10名）

– 荣誉证书、100美元的奖金，以及 CCIR 少年班提供的300美元奖学金。
– CCIR 社交媒体专访，分享经验和心得。
– 免费参与在剑桥举办的颁奖典礼和晚宴。

## 铜奖（全球10名）

– 荣誉证书、50 美元的奖金，以及 CCIR 少年班提供的200美元奖学金。
– CCIR 社交媒体专访，分享经验和心得。
– 免费参与在剑桥举办的颁奖典礼和晚宴。

# 特别奖项

每一种特别奖项全球仅授予一名学生。

获此殊荣的参赛者将获得：荣誉证书、150美元的奖金，以及 CCIR 少年班提供的500美元奖学金。CCIR 社交媒体专访，分享经验和心得。免费参与在剑桥举办的颁奖典礼和晚宴。

所有成功上传完整文书的参赛者，将获得CCIR颁发的电子证书。

## Logos 最佳论证奖

对亚里士多德来说，"Logos" 即为理性或逻辑，它体现在作品中运用推理的熟练程度。该奖项旨在表彰在理性、逻辑和哲学层面展现出最具说服力的论文。

## Pathos 最佳写作奖

在古希腊，"Pathos" 被理解为一项作品吸引情感、激发同情、共鸣或激情的能力。该奖项旨在表彰在情感表达、写作风格、创造力和感染力方面表现最出色的论文。

## Ethos 最佳研究奖

作为亚里士多德辩论的三大要素之一，"Ethos"是伦理说服的核心。该奖项将授予不仅展现出对现有学术讨论深刻理解，同时也彰显出卓越学术研究能力的论文。

# 评判标准

**双盲评审：**提交者和审阅者的身份对双方保密。

**主题原创性和趣味性:** 本竞赛致力激励学生深入思考，重新评估科学、社会和全球环境之间的关系，鼓励学生的原创想法和观点

**思辨和写作质量:** 文章应具备工整的结构，每个主张或论点都有证据或逻辑推理支持。此外，评委还会将语言，思路和主题等整体写作风格纳入考虑。

**抄袭和AI辅助：** 比赛严禁抄袭和AI辅助，一经发现，相关论文将被取消资格。换而言之，学生必须确保论文的完完全全的原创性。

# 格式和要求

- 请确保您的文章**不超过2000字**;这个字数统计不包括脚注和参考书目。

- 请使用一致的字体格式，并将**行间距设置为1.5**。

- 所有提交论文将由软件查重和检查是否使用AI写作。因此，我们希望所有提交的文件都能以**MLA 8格式**正确引用。

论文必须以**PDF格式**提交。在PDF文件中，**请删除您的姓名，所**
- **属机构或任何个人信息**，以确保盲审。您将被要求在提交系统中提供个人信息。

## 唯一作者

您提交的论文必须完全是您自己的作品，不可与他人合著。您可以向他人寻求建议和探讨主题，但他人不能介入论文的实际写作。

## 1 唯一提交

参赛者只能提交一篇论文，该论文内容仅涉及一个赛题。

# 什么是好的论文...

- 有效地传达一个清晰和令人信服的论点。
- 提供深思熟虑的分析和证据来支持其论证。
- 将富有逻辑的想法组织在良好的篇章结构中，引导读者感受到连贯和引人入胜的叙事。
- 表现出对语言的掌握，使用精确有力的词汇有效地传达信息。

- 通过提供深刻的结论来反映主题的广泛意义，给人留下深刻的印象。

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

**View full Prompt List
+Professor Commentary + Recommended Readings**
at https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition-2024/

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Harald Wydra

Professor in Politics

Department of Politics &
International Studies,
University of Cambridge

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

Religion and Politics

**Why has religion remained a force in a secular world?**

*Professor Commentary:*

Arguably, the developed world has become more secular in the last century or so. The influence of Christianity, e.g. has diminished and people's life worlds are less shaped by faith and allegiance to Churches. Conversely, arguments have persisted that hold that we live in a post-secular world. After all, religion – be it in terms of faith, transcendence, or meaning – may be seen as an alternative to a disenchanted world ruled by entirely profane criteria such as economic rationality, progressivism, or science. Is the revival of religion a pale reminder of a by-gone past or does it provide sources of hope for the future?

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Mashail Malik

Assistant Professor
*of* Government

Department of Government,
Harvard University

**HARVARD**
UNIVERSITY

Political Science and Law

**What are the arguments for and against prison abolitionism?**

*Professor Commentary:*

*The debate on prison abolitionism challenges the effectiveness and morality of the criminal justice system. On the one hand, mass incarceration has a disproportionate impact on marginalized groups and is argued to contribute to maintaining and deepening existing inequalities. On the other, some members of these communities themselves have — and continue to — advocate for "tough on crime" policies. Are prisons merely punitive, or can they effectively address the root causes of crime? Should we abolish prisons, or reimagine and restructure them towards restorative justice? Thinking through these questions requires not only addressing our stock of empirical evidence on the impact of prisons, but also being careful to be explicit about what we hope to achieve in a normatively just future.*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Victoria Fendel

Leverhulme Trust Fellow

Faculty of Classics,
University of Oxford

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

### Linguistics

In school we are taught to speak and write "properly"—but what does this mean? Does the idea of a "proper language" play a role, as some have suggested, in maintaining class distinctions and oppressing marginalized groups? If so, should we abandon the idea of linguistic "propriety", or somehow reconceptualize it?

*Professor Commentary:*

*While the idea of this essay title clearly ties in with research that is ongoing an very important, not least in the UK (see https://accentbiasbritain.org/), the choice of words in the question quite leading (e.g. 'oppressing'). The question does not seem to take into consideration the large area of sociolinguistics which is very active in disseminating their findings to the general public (see e.g. Multilingualism and Identity, CUP 2022). Finally, it is rarely a good idea to practise damnatio memoriae as it were and 'abandon' something but this should rather be about debunking a myth. Perhaps we could rather ask: How can we celebrate the diversity in the way we speak and how can we proactively break down barriers and move from a paradigm of categories to the idea of a continuum or perhaps far more complex a model, and from the pervasive question 'where are you from?' to the future-oriented question 'where are you going?'.*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Joaquin Terrones

Faculty Lecturer

School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

## Environment

Does the principle of 'reduce, reuse, recycle' actually contribute to reducing global waste, or is it just a myth that distracts from the real issues of overproduction and overconsumption? Should developing countries be held to the same environmental standards as developed countries, despite their different stages of industrialization and economic needs?

*Professor Commentary:*

*From their onset, the environmental crises that we currently face have been closely linked to capitalism and the inequalities it generates. Can we address one without the other? As you begin to reflect on these issues, consider historical differences and current disparities between developed and developing countries. Which parts of the world have consumed the most resources and produced the most waste? Who suffers the most from climate change and other environmental catastrophes? Finally, it might prove useful to assess the framework of responsibility—personal or national—that we often apply to environmental issues. What are its benefits and limitations? Are there other ways to frame the issue?*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Hande Güzel

Research Affiliate

Department of Sociology,
University of Cambridge

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

## Sociology and Philosophy

Artificial intelligence is increasingly becoming a part of our lives: from Snapchat filters to deepfakes, it is becoming easier than ever for our images to be manipulated by ourselves and others alike in myriad ways.

**How will AI change our understanding of beauty? How does the prevalence of AI in our lives cut across our understanding of beauty? What sorts of ethical and political consequences will this have?**

*Professor Commentary:*

*An essay addressing this question should consider how changes in our understanding of beauty might intersect with social categories such as gender, 'race', class, age, or disability/able-bodiedness. There is a possibility that inequalities are deepened and strengthened, or on the contrary weakened via the involvement of AI in our lives. This becomes especially pivotal when marginalised individuals or communities are in the picture. Hence, essays should discuss the relationship between AI and inequalities within the framework of the aforementioned social categories within the scope of beauty.*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

**View full Prompt List +Professor Commentary + Recommended Readings** at https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition-2024/

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Keivan Aghasi

Research Associate

Entrepreneurship Centre,
Judge Business School,
University of Cambridge

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**
Judge Business School

### Business and Investment

Do overvalued startups with unsustainable business models negatively affect competition and the overall health of the economy? Or are they rather just the regrettable, but unavoidable "bad apples" in a financial and economic system that is rational as a whole?

*Professor Commentary:*

*High valuation and high-end salaries seem attractive but are they harmful for start-ups, founders, employees, and society? The pressure for overvalued start-ups to outperform the competitors in the market usually leads to mismanagement and bad decisions by the founders and results in significant financial losses for the investors. Also, such pressure negatively impacts the well-being of the employees, and oftentimes times they get burned out. Regrettably, this pressure sometimes encourages few founders to justify the means and undertake unethical approaches to outperform in the market.*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

**View full Prompt List +Professor Commentary + Recommended Readings** at https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition-2024/

*Prompt contributed by*

# Dr Markita P. Landry

Associate Professor *of* Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering

Landry Lab, Department of Chemical Engineering, University of California, Berkeley Chan–Zuckerberg Biohub

**Berkeley**
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

## Public Health and Sustainability

**Discuss the conflict of sustainability, agriculture, and human health.**

*Professor Commentary:*

*Global climate change and the extreme weather patterns it induces is compromising the quality and availability of land on which we can grow food. Furthermore, the strong backlash against genetically modified foods (GMOs) slows progress in bioengineering resilient crops. Do the benefits of implementing new genome editing technologies for agriculture outweigh the societal backlash of advancing technologies and bioengineered crops? If regulatory and societal backlash slow progress in crop genetic engineering, what populations are most affected by the resulting malnutrition and food scarcity effects?*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

View full Prompt List
+Professor Commentary + Recommended Readings
at https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition-2024/

*Prompt contributed by...*

Dr Hakan Coskun

Research Fellow

Department of Cardiology,
Harvard Medical School

HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

## Genetics

Gene therapy is a medical approach that treats or prevents disease by correcting the underlying genetic problem. Is gene therapy better than traditional medicines? What are the pros and cons of using gene therapy as a medicine? Is gene therapy justifiable?

*Professor Commentary:*

*Especially after Covid-19 mRNA vaccines, gene therapy is getting more and more interesting approach to cure. That's why that could be interesting to think about. I believe that students will enjoy and learn a lot while they are investigating this topic.*

▶ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Mamiko Yajima

Assistant Professor *of* Molecular Biology, Cell Biology & Biochemistry

Yajima Lab,
Brown University

BROWN

### Biotechonology

In the near future, there's a possibility of utilizing cells from various parts of the body to create these germ cells, also known as gametes. This innovative process, called in vitro gametogenesis (IVG), opens up the potential for producing babies using cells sourced from muscle, liver, or blood. Scientists can construct embryos, eggs, and sperm from induced pluripotent stem cells. This technology may open up many applications since, in theory, anyone can make biological babies or clones independent of their gender or age using their somatic cells. Ethical regulations have so far been implemented to limit the study.

**Should we move forward with vitro gametogenesis (IVG) further?**

*Professor Commentary:*

*This technology may allow, for example, a gay couple or a couple at any age to have their biological babies. It may also free young women from social pressure to give birth, which could fundamentally change our culture in society. What type of world will we face in the end if this technology is unleashed into the world? What types of regulations are critical for human beings to make appropriate use of this technology?*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

## Artificial Intelligence

Is AI-driven data mining serving us better or is it overriding our privacy?

Prompt contributed by

## Dr Naama Kanarek

Assistant Professor
of Pathology

The Kanarek Laboratory,
Department of Pathology,
Harvard University

**HARVARD** UNIVERSITY

*Professor Commentary:*

*In a world flooded with data regarding our life routine, day-to-day choices, and purchasing preferences, we should consider how this data can be used and by whom. Companies use this data to sharpen their marketing targeting, that can be very helpful for both the companies and the consumers. Governments can use this data to identify and track potential threats to society, that can save lives and protect society from violent individuals or groups. But how much are we willing to expose of our private lives? And what if some companies misuse the data and adapt prices or create pseudo-monopoly with overly aggressive targeting of consumers? What if some governments use the same information to track citizens that oppose the government and compromise freedom of civilians? How can we draw a line between proper data mining and misuse of the same data? The answer is probably multifaceted. First, the type of collected data matters, for example: opinions expressed on social media differs from monitoring online purchasing habits. While the first is an active choice of an individual, who is usually aware of the public nature of the platforms used, the latter is not often an aspect of our online activity that we are acutely aware of. Second, the level of transparency in collecting the data matters. We all check the box of the "terms and conditions", but often the privacy terms are buried in several pages-long small print that is easy to overlook. It is important to demand more warnings and privacy notices from sites that monitor, record, and sometimes sell our data. Which brings me to the third point of the discussion regarding legitimacy and risks in high throughput data curation, and that is the potential of selling or leaking of the data to a secondary entity that might be nefarious, or just not aligned with the interests of the individual. This is an important point because it highlights the responsibility of the entities that acquire and record the personal data, and their commitment to the well-being of the users. Together, these points place a shared responsibility on each of us, as internet users and on the companies / institutes that acquire the data. While internet users should be aware of the public nature of their actions online – from social media activity to simple online purchasing, Data acquisition entities should inform the users what type of data they collect, to what end, and who might see and process the data.*

# 2024 Essay Prompts

This year's competition aims to underscore the importance of discourse, debate, and critical analysis in addressing complex societal issues in nine areas.

**View full Prompt List +Professor Commentary + Recommended Readings** at https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition-2024/

*Prompt contributed by*

## Dr Ulf Dettmer

Associate Professor *of* Neurology

The Dettmer Laboratory, Harvard Medical School

**HARVARD UNIVERSITY**

## Neuroengineering

Breaking down the boundaries between humans and machine. In a sense, some of us can already be considered to be human-smartphone hybrids. Researchers and the tech industry are developing better and better approaches for breaking down the boundaries between humans and machines.

**Will we become superhuman and immortal – and do we want to?**

*Professor Commentary:*

*In a number of Parkinson's disease patients, the implantation of electrodes in certain parts of the brain can mitigate the movement problems ("deep-brain stimulation"). Wouldn't it be amazing to also restore the cognitive function of dementia patients by connecting the brain with a computer? And in daily life, just imagine you could simply "upload" a new language or advanced math skills to your brain. And will it one day become possible to "download" parts of our personality to a device, preserving it towards some kind of virtual immortality? Where are the limits – technically and ethically?*

▸ *Recommended reading list*

# Q & A

完整竞赛情况请参考以下页面：
https://cambridge-research.org/essay-competition-2024/

## 联系方式

**Cambridge Centre for International Research, Ltd**
184 Cambridge Science Park Milton Road
Cambridge CB4 0GA
United Kingdom

Email: **outreach@cambridge-research.org**

## 关键时间点

竞赛开赛: 2024年 1月 15日

论文提交截止日期： 2024年 5月 10日

结果公布日期：2024年 6月 20日

颁奖典礼和剑桥晚宴：2024年 7月 30日