Vancouver Institute Fall 2008 Program

* Free Public Lectures *

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

General Information

Please see the [Vancouver Institute home page](http://vaninst.ca/Vi2008Fall.html).

Lecture Times

Saturday evenings, 8:15 p.m. (doors open 7:30 p.m.), except where otherwise noted.

The Fall 2008 season comprises eight lectures, from September 27 to November 29, omitting October 4th (venue unavailable) and 11th (Thanksgiving).

Fall 2008 Lecture Schedule

*(Please click on the lecture date for further detail.)*

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<td>The Stuff of Thought: Language As a Window Into Human Nature</td>
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<td>Nov 15</td>
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Vancouver Institute Information

* Free Public Lectures *

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Lecture Schedules

Except where specially noted, lectures are Saturday evenings, beginning at 8:15 p.m. (doors open 7:30 p.m.).

Spring 2015


General Information

**How to join:** If you have a Vancouver Institute brochure, you can fill out the contained form and and mail it with a cheque to the indicated address; otherwise you can simply come to a lecture, well ahead of the lecture time (there may be a lineup) with the [membership fee](#).

**How to get there.**

About [The Vancouver Institute](#). Complete list of [lecture titles](#), from 1916 to the present.


The lectures are in Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, [University of British Columbia](#). When necessary, neighbouring overflow halls in the Centre, with closed-circuit TV, are used, and the speaker visits each hall during the question period.

Seats in the front half of the main hall are reserved for members until fifteen minutes before the starting time, and a few seats are reserved for specific people. Seating is otherwise first-come, first-served.
Professor Steven Pinker Lecture

Professor Steven Pinker
Department of Psychology
Harvard University

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on September 27, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

J. V. Clyne Lecture

The Stuff of Thought:
Language As a Window Into Human Nature

Named one of Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people in the world in 2004 and one of Prospect and Foreign Policy’s 100 top public intellectuals in 2005, Dr. Pinker conducts research on visual cognition and the psychology of language and has earned prizes from the National Academy of Sciences and the American Psychology Association. He has also received many awards for his teaching at MIT and for his books How the Mind Works (which was also a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize) and The Language Instinct. He is an elected fellow of several scientific societies, associate editor of Cognition, and a member of the usage panel of the American Heritage Dictionary. He has written for The New York Times, Time, The New Yorker, The New Republic, Slate and Technology Review.
Dr. Art McDonald Lecture

Dr. Art McDonald
Director
Sudbury Neutrino Observatory

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **October 18, 2008** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**How To Tell a Neutrino From a Hole In the Ground**

A graduate of Dalhousie and Caltech, and recipient of some of the most prestigious prizes in physics, Dr. McDonald is director of one of the most innovative and important scientific experiments being conducted in Canada today. The Sudbury Neutrino Observatory is located 2 km underground in one of INCO’s old mines in Sudbury, Ontario. This massive research effort is designed to detect solar neutrinos and help in the study of other major scientific questions such as the nature of dark matter. In Dr. McDonald’s words, “The research that we are doing ... really bridges the entire universe. We are attempting to understand the most microscopic laws of physics that describe fundamental particles. And, in so doing, we try to understand the most detailed things about the universe, how it was created and evolved; in short, the origins of the universe.”
Professor Pat Marchak Lecture

Professor Pat Marchak
Department of Sociology
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on October 25, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

No Easy Fix:
Global Responses to Crimes Against Humanity

Dr. Marchak is a retired Professor of Sociology, former Dean of Arts at UBC, and past President of the Humanities and Social Sciences Academy of the Royal Society of Canada. She is the author of numerous books devoted to addressing some of the most important social and ethical issues of our times. Some of these books include Reigns of Terror; The Integrated Circus: The New Right and the Restructuring of Global Markets; Logging the Globe; and God's Assassins: State Terrorism in Argentina in the 1970s. Her most recent book, No Easy Fix: Global Responses to Internal Wars and Crimes Against Humanity, is the subject of her address to The Institute. Research for this book included fieldwork in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Serbia. Many of the issues raised in this research have parallels in current crisis regions, including Darfur, Zimbabwe, Iraq, Afghanistan and Myanmar.
Mr. Steven Galloway Lecture

Mr. Steven Galloway
Novelist and author of *The Cellist of Sarajevo*
Vancouver

will be addressing the [Vancouver Institute](http://vaninst.ca/VbGalloway.html) on **November 1, 2008** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the [Woodward Instructional Resources Centre](http://vaninst.ca/VbGalloway.html), University of British Columbia.

**An Evening With Steven Galloway**

A native of Vancouver, Mr. Galloway has already produced three widely acclaimed novels. The first, *Finnie Walsh* (2000), was nominated for the [Amazon.ca/Books in Canada First Novel Award](http://vaninst.ca/VbGalloway.html). His second, *Ascension* (2003), was nominated for the BC Book Prizes' [Ethel Wilson Fiction Prize](http://vaninst.ca/VbGalloway.html), and has been translated into numerous languages. His newest novel, *The Cellist of Sarajevo*, was published in the spring of 2008 and is set in Sarajevo during the siege of the early 1990s. One review has characterized this masterpiece as a “gripping novel [which] transcends time and place. It is a universal story, and a testimony to the struggle to find meaning, grace, and humanity, even among the most unimaginable horrors.”
Dr. Louis Lefebvre Lecture

Dr. Louis Lefebvre
Canada Research Chair in Genomic Imprinting
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **November 8, 2008** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**Variation On a Gene:**
**The Advent of Epigenetics**

Dr. Lefebvre is a leading researcher in the emerging area of epigenetics which studies the influence of non-genetic or environmental factors on how human genes behave, or express themselves. He received his B.Sc. from the Université Laval in Québec City and his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at UBC under the supervision of the late Nobel Laureate Prof. Michael Smith, in whose laboratory he studied mechanisms of gene regulation. As a Postdoctoral Fellow at Cambridge University, Dr. Lefebvre showed that genes regulated by epigenetic phenomena can be implicated in the regulation of embryonic growth and complex behaviour unique to mammals. His laboratory is part of the Molecular Epigenetics Group at the new Life Sciences Institute.
Dr. John S. MacDonald Lecture

Dr. John S. MacDonald
Co-founder of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates
and CEO of Day4 Energy Inc.

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 15, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Energy in the 21st Century

Dr. MacDonald has had a distinguished career in the technology community in Canada. He is currently Chairman and CEO of Day4 Energy Inc., a solar energy company of which he is a co-founder. Day4 Energy is dedicated to exploiting a new photovoltaic technology targeted at making solar energy generation cost competitive with fossil fuel. He was also a co-founder of MacDonald Dettwiler and Associates (MDA), Canada's principal space company. Dr. MacDonald was a faculty member in engineering at UBC and MIT for a total of 12 years prior to the founding of MacDonald Dettwiler. Dr. MacDonald has been awarded eight Honorary Degrees, and is an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 1999 he was named one of “50 most influential British Columbia business leaders of the 20th Century” and “Technology Entrepreneur of the Year” in 1995.
Professor Michael Tenzer Lecture  
Professor Michael Tenzer  
UBC School of Music  

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 22, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**Indonesia's Gamelan Music — Lecture and Performance**

Born in New York City, Professor Tenzer studied music at Yale University, and then completed a PhD in music composition at University of California, Berkeley. Since 1977 he has also lived on and off for five years in Bali, Indonesia, studying gamelan traditions. In 1988-89 he learned drumming and singing in South India. From 1986-1996 he taught music theory and composition at Yale, and since 1996 has been professor of music at UBC. Since the 1980s Tenzer has been one of the most important figures in the international gamelan movement and was the first non-Balinese ever to compose music performed by the Balinese gamelan in Bali. These works have been cited by Balinese critics as “an important and unique contribution to our cultural heritage.” Currently Tenzer directs Gamelan Gita Asmara in Vancouver.
Professor Peter Clarke Lecture

Professor Peter Clarke
Professor of Modern British History
and former Master, Trinity Hall College
Cambridge University

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 29, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

DAL GRAUER MEMORIAL LECTURE

The Two Careers of Winston S. Churchill

Dr. Peter Clarke was Professor of Modern British History from 1991 to 2004 at Cambridge University and Master of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, from 2000 to 2004. He is the author of a number of important books on British history and politics in the twentieth century, including Hope and Glory: Britain 1900-2000 (2004) (the acclaimed Penguin history of Britain in the twentieth century) and A Question of Leadership: Gladstone to Blair (1999). His most recent work is The Last Thousand Days of the British Empire: The Demise of a Superpower, 1944-47. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and reviews books regularly for The Times Literary Supplement, the London Review of Books and the Sunday Times.
The Vancouver Institute staff may be contacted at this address:

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604-822-8660

(Please note that the email link above was updated December 2014.)

Various officers of the Institute are generally present at the lectures.

The Webmaster

Reports of problems with the web site, and suggestions for additional information to be posted there, may be emailed to Ted Powell.

This address is NOT for suggestions related to so-called "search engine optimization" from any source.

More generally, please note:

1. This address is not intended as a general point of contact for the Institute. Under "The Institute" above I have provided an email address, a phone number, and a street/postal address, and noted that "Various officers of the Institute are generally present at the lectures." This is the only contact information that I consider myself at liberty to provide. Although I might occasionally pass on people's concerns to officers of the Institute, I have not volunteered to be an ombudsman.
2. I am not privy to contact information for current or past speakers.
3. I cannot predict whether upcoming speakers will be available for interviews.
4. I cannot predict whether a transcript of a particular talk will be made available by the Institute, except to note that it is a rare occurrence.
5. I cannot predict whether the Institute and/or a particular speaker will consent to third-party taping of a lecture. All lectures are audiotaped by the Institute, and some (check here) are also videotaped. These tapes are held by the Special Collections Division of the UBC Library.
6. I do not handle suggestions for speakers to be invited.
7. I generally cannot predict when I will receive next season's program from the Program Chair.
8. I do not handle advertising.
9. I have no idea whether the Institute has merchant accounts with any credit card companies, let alone whether any such accounts might be authorized for telephone transactions.
10. I have no involvement with any mailing list(s) maintained by the Institute.
11. I have no idea what topics the speaker may cover, beyond what a reasonable person might surmise from the lecture title and the speaker bio.

Many of these issues can, however, be resolved by contacting the Institute staff, using the information given at the top of this page.
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