Vancouver Institute Fall 2013 Program

* Free Public Lectures *

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

General Information

Please see the Vancouver Institute home page.

Lecture Times

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

The Fall 2013 season comprises ten lectures, from September 21 to November 30, omitting October 12th (Thanksgiving).

Fall 2013 Lecture Schedule

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

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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 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.
Dr. Samantha Nutt, C.M. Lecture

Dr. Samantha Nutt, C.M.
Executive Director, War Child Canada, and
Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine
University of Toronto

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on September 21, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

BERT AND MEGAN ALLSOPP LECTURE

Damned Nations:
Greed, Guns, Armies and Aid

Dr. Nutt, founder and Executive Director of War Child Canada, is a physician with more than sixteen years of experience working in war zones. She is a leading authority on the impact of war on civilians. Since the beginning of her career, Dr. Nutt has focused on providing assistance to war-affected women and children and has worked with the United Nations and several other non-governmental organizations. She has worked with children and their families at the frontline of many of the world's major crises including Iraq, Afghanistan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Darfur, South Sudan, Burundi, northern Uganda, Ethiopia and the Thai-Burmese border. She is on staff at Women's College Hospital.
Professor Jo Anne Van Tilburg Lecture

Professor Jo Anne Van Tilburg
Research Associate
The Cotsen Institute of Archaeology
University of California – Los Angeles

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on September 28, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

The Mystery of Easter Island

Professor Van Tilburg is an American archaeologist best known for her research on the statues of Easter Island (Rapa Nui). She has conducted seasonal fieldwork in the Pacific since 1982, including in the Republic of Belau and on Easter Island. She has conducted extensive archival and museum studies throughout the world and, since 1995, has researched the life of Edwardian archaeologist Katherine Routledge, the first woman (in company with her husband and fellow anthropologist William Scoresby Routledge), to conduct field work on Easter Island and in the Pacific. In 1998 she completed an experimental archaeology project to make and move a replica statue on Easter Island. A documentary film and web site were produced for Nova by WGBH Boston describing her extraordinary work.
Dr. John Grace, O.C. Lecture

Dr. John Grace, O.C.
Department of Chemical Engineering
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **October 5, 2013** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**Should We, and Can We, Phase Out Canada's Oil Sands?**

Professor Grace holds a Tier I Canada Research Chair in Clean Energy and is a co-founder of Membrane Reactor Technologies Ltd., a company focused on efficient hydrogen generation and use. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Engineering Institute of Canada, and the Chemical Institute of Canada. He has also received a host of awards, including the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering’s R.S. Jane Memorial Award, the Career Achievement Award of the Science Council of British Columbia, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers’ Thomas Baron Award and its Dupont Particle Technology Forum Award and the Meritorious Achievement Award of the Association of Professional Engineers & Geoscientists of BC. His Order of Canada is in recognition of his contributions to the development of cleaner technology for industrial processes and energy production.
Mr. Terry Fallis Lecture

Mr. Terry Fallis
Author and political consultant

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on October 19, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Momus in Ottawa:
Satire and the Search for Honesty in Politics

Mr. Fallis has authored several award-winning satirical novels on Canadian politics. His debut novel, The Best Laid Plans, won the 2008 Stephen Leacock Medal for Humour and the Gold Medal in the Independent Publisher Book Awards in the Regional Fiction – Canada East category. In 2011, this work was crowned the winner of CBC Canada Reads as the “essential Canadian novel of the decade.” The sequel, called The High Road, was a finalist for the 2011 Stephen Leacock Medal. His third novel, Up and Down, debuted on the Globe and Mail bestsellers list. His satirical work has been inspired by many years as a staffer for cabinet ministers in both the federal and Ontario governments as well as his role as a government affairs and communications consultant. Mr. Fallis’ first novel is currently in production as a six-part TV mini-series to air on CBC Television starting in early January 2014.
Ms. Marci McDonald Lecture

Ms. Marci McDonald
Canadian author and journalist

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on October 26, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

BEL N. NEMETZ LECTURE

Religion and Politics:
Is Canada Becoming More Like the United States?

Ms. McDonald has won eight gold National Magazine Awards. A former bureau chief for Maclean’s magazine in Paris and Washington, she has interviewed Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, as well as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. In the 1990s, she returned to the American capital as a senior writer for U.S. News & World Report, working under the editorship of James Fallows, where she specialized in business and politics. In Canada, she has been a frequent contributor to Toronto Life, Canadian Geographic and The Walrus. She won a gold National Magazine Award and the 2003 award for investigative magazine reporting from the Canadian Association of Journalists. In the U.S., her features have appeared in the Washington Monthly, the Washington Post Magazine, Editor & Publisher and Redbook.
Professor Ron Deibert Lecture

Professor Ron Deibert
Department of Political Science
University of Toronto

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 2, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

MARK ZACHER DISTINGUISHED VISITING SCHOLAR LECTURE

Under Cover of the Net:
Surveillance, Privacy, and the Dark Side of Cyberspace

Professor Deibert is Director of the Canada Centre for Global Security Studies and the Citizen Lab at the Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto. The Citizen Lab is an interdisciplinary research and development hothouse working at the intersection of the Internet, global security, and human rights. He was one of the authors of the Tracking Ghostnet report that documented an alleged cyber-espionage network affecting over 1200 computers in 103 countries, and the Shadows in the Cloud report, which analyzed a cloud-based espionage network. He is the author of the forthcoming book Black Code: the battle for the future of cyberspace (McClelland & Stewart, 2013). He has been a consultant and advisor to governments, international organizations, and civil society/NGOs on issues relating to cyber security, cyber crime, online free expression, and access to information.
Professor Neil Cashman Lecture

Professor Neil Cashman
Brain Research Centre
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 9, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Neurodegenerative Diseases: The Distorted Origami of Protein Misfolding

Dr. Cashman is a neurologist-neuroscientist working in neurodegeneration and neuroimmunology. His special areas of work are the amyloid encephalopathies, such as the prion illnesses, Alzheimer’s disease, and motor neuron diseases, particularly amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease). He holds the Canada Research Chair in Neurodegeneration and Protein Misfolding Diseases. He is Scientific Director to PrioNet Canada, a Network of Centres of Excellence focused on basic and applied research related to prion diseases. Dr. Cashman is the author of over 300 publications, and provides expertise and guidance to numerous scientific, medical, and governmental committees related to his research interests. Special honors recently received include the Jonas Salk Prize in 2000 for “outstanding contributions to basic biomedical research,” his election to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2008, and the Genome BC Scientific Excellence Award in 2012.
Ms. Mary Janigan Lecture

Ms. Mary Janigan
Author and Political Journalist
Toronto

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 16, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark

Ms. Janigan is a journalist who has written extensively about Canadian public policy, including politics and economics, for the Toronto Star, Maclean’s and the Globe and Mail. She won the prestigious Hyman Solomon Award for policy analysis, and the National Newspaper Award for her clause-by-clause scrutiny of proposed Constitution changes. Her book Let the Eastern Bastards Freeze in the Dark: The West versus the Rest Since Confederation was shortlisted for the Donner Prize and won the J.W. Dafoe Book Prize which is awarded for the best book on Canada, Canadians, and/or Canada’s place in the world published in the previous year.
Mr. Mark Mazzetti Lecture

Mr. Mark Mazzetti
Journalist
The New York Times

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 23, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

America’s Shadow War

Mr. Mazzetti is a national security correspondent for The New York Times. In 2009, he shared a Pulitzer Prize for reporting on the intensifying violence in Pakistan and Afghanistan and Washington’s response, and he has won numerous other major journalism awards, including the George Polk Award (with colleague Dexter Filkins) and the Livingston Award, for breaking the story of the CIA's destruction of interrogation videotapes. He is also the recipient of the Gerald R. Ford Prize for Distinguished Reporting on National Defense. Mr. Mazzetti has also written for the Los Angeles Times, U.S. News & World Report, and The Economist. He is the author of The Way of the Knife: The CIA, a Secret Army, and a War at the Ends of the Earth, Penguin Press, 2013.
Prof. Alex Himelfarb Lecture

Prof. Alex Himelfarb
Director of the Glendon School of Public and International Affairs
York University, and
Former Clerk of The Privy Council

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on November 30, 2013 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Tax Isn't a Four-letter Word

Before joining the Public Service in 1981, Dr. Himelfarb was a professor of sociology at the University of New Brunswick. Since then he has held a number of positions, including Director General, Planning and Management Branch with the Department of the Solicitor General; Executive Director of the National Parole Board; Assistant Secretary to the Cabinet, Social Policy Development with the Privy Council Office; and Associate Secretary of the Treasury Board. While serving at the Treasury Board, he also headed the federal Task Force on the Social Union. In 1999, Mr. Himelfarb became Deputy Minister of Canadian Heritage, a position he held until his appointment as Clerk of the Privy Council. He was appointed Canadian Ambassador to Italy in 2006.
Vancouver Institute Contacts

The Institute

The Vancouver Institute staff may be contacted at this address:

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  vancouver.institute@ubc.ca

  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.
P.S.: It may be that some webmasters are mind readers; I am not. Also, there are times when my mind is not operating at top efficiency, and I may misinterpret a page description which seems perfectly clear to you. If you are writing about a page or pages on this site, or are referring to some other website, please give specific web addresses, e.g. http://www.example.com/some-folder/some-page.html