# Vancouver Institute Spring 2008 Program

* Free Public Lectures *

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

## General Information

Please see the [Vancouver Institute home page](http://vaninst.ca/Vi2008Spring.html).

## Lecture Times

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

The Spring 2008 season comprises ten lectures, from January 12 to March 29, omitting February 16 (Midterm Break) and March 22 (Easter).

## Spring 2008 Lecture Schedule

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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.
Mr. Bramwell Tovey Lecture

Mr. Bramwell Tovey
Music Director
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **January 12, 2008** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**An Evening With Bramwell Tovey**

Mr. Tovey is internationally recognized for his "stylish" conducting *(The Financial Times)* and his "genuine audience-reaching charm" *(Alan Rich, LA Weekly)*. An acclaimed conductor, an accomplished pianist, and an exceptional communicator, Mr. Tovey is equally at home leading symphonic masterworks, performing jazz improvisation on the piano, and composing. He has worked internationally with a prestigious list of orchestras that includes the New York Philharmonic, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Montreal Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, among others. Mr. Tovey has been awarded several honorary degrees and a Fellowship from the Royal Academy of Music in London. In 1999, he received the M. Joan Chalmers National Award for Artistic Direction.

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**Background Information**

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**VSO conductor biography**

British artist BRAMWELL TOVEY is internationally recognized for his "stylish" conducting *(The Financial Times)* and his "genuine audience-reaching charm" *(Alan Rich, LA Weekly)*. An acclaimed conductor, an accomplished pianist, and an exceptional communicator, Tovey is equally at home leading symphonic masterworks, performing jazz improvisation on the piano, and composing. ...

**VSO guest artist biography**

Bramwell Tovey joined the VSO as Music Director in September 2000. Since September 2002 he has also been Chief Conductor and Music Director of the Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg. From 1989 to 2001 he was Artistic Director of the Winnipeg Symphony where he established the WSO's New Music Festival as one of the premiere new music events in North America. ...
Kwantlen honours VSO conductor, Bramwell Tovey

Conductor and Music Director for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (VSO), Bramwell Tovey is an important figure in the cultural life of Vancouver and BC’s Lower Mainland.

In recognition of his dedication to music and contributions to the community, Kwantlen University College awards Bramwell Tovey with an Honourary Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa) at the 2005 Convocation ceremony.

“Since moving to Vancouver with my family in 2000, my wife Lana, my children and I have greatly appreciated the warmth and friendliness of the lower Mainland community. I am deeply honoured to accept this honourary degree and look forward to participating in Kwantlen University College life.”

Wikipedia entry

Bramwell Tovey is an English-born conductor and composer born 11 July 1953. He was educated at Ilford County High School, the Royal Academy of Music and London University.

His musical roots are in The Salvation Army. His formal music education was as a pianist and composer. During his student years at the Royal Academy of Music he also became a tuba player, studying with John Fletcher.

He has been the music director of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra since September 2000 (and until 2010), and of the Luxembourg Philharmonic Orchestra since September 2002 (and until 2006).
Professor Michael Byers Lecture

Professor Michael Byers
Department of Political Science
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on January 19, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Transferring to Torture:
Canada, Human Rights, and Detainees

Dr. Byers holds a Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law. In addition to being a tenured professor in the Political Science Department he has served as Academic Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues. Dr. Byers’ work focuses on the interaction of international law and politics, particularly with respect to human rights, international organizations, and the use of military force and Canada-United States relations. He is a regular contributor to the London Review of Books and The Globe and Mail. His most recent book is entitled: Intent for A Nation. What is Canada For?

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UBC Dept. of Political Science faculty page
Michael Byers holds a Canada Research Chair (Tier 1) in Global Politics and International Law. In addition to being a tenured professor in Political Science Department he serves as Academic Director of the Liu Institute for Global Issues. ...

Liu Institute for Global Issues faculty page
His work focuses on the interaction of international law and international politics, especially with regard to international organizations, the use of military force, the law of the sea, human rights and Canada-United States relations. ...

Canada Research Chair page
As Canada Research Chair in Global Politics and International Law, Michael Byers will investigate the issues surrounding the current international "use-of-force regime," that is, the institutional and legal structures governing the initiation of armed conflict. After the interventions in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and Iraq, some have called into question the long-term viability of such institutions,
which are centred around the United Nations.

... Byers will examine the future of Canadian defense policy. At a time when the existing use-of-force regime is under strain, is it reasonable to expect Canada to define its military role as one that is not closely linked to the United States? And just how close should that linkage be? Must Canada compromise its traditional commitment to the international rule of law if allies, most notably the United States, adopt a more "selective" approach to supporting international institutions? ...
Dr. Nancy Turner, OBC Lecture

Dr. Nancy Turner, OBC  
UVic Distinguished Professor  
School of Environmental Studies  
University of Victoria

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on January 26, 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 Song of the Salmonberry Bird:  
Why Diversity Matters in Nature and Culture

Dr. Turner is an ethnobotanist who has collaborated with Saanich First Nations elders to learn about the significance of plants to their culture, and conducted research on plant classification systems among the Haida, Nuxalk (Bella Coola) and Stl’atl’imx (Lillooet) people. Her major research contributions have been in demonstrating the pivotal role of plant resources in past and contemporary aboriginal cultures and languages, as an integral component of traditional knowledge systems, and how traditional management of plant resources has shaped the landscapes and habitats of western Canada. Dr. Turner is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and has received the Lawson Medal for lifetime contributions to Canadian Botany, the Order of British Columbia, and the YWCA Women of Distinction Award for Science, Technology and the Environment.

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University of Victoria faculty page

Dr. Turner is an ethnobotanist and professor in the School of Environmental Studies. While working on her thesis, she collaborated with Saanich First Nations elders to learn about the significance of plants to their culture. Her post-graduate work concentrated on plant classification systems among the Haida, Nuxalk (Bella Coola) and Stl’atl’imx (Lillooet) people. Her major research contributions have been in demonstrating the pivotal role of plant resources in past and contemporary aboriginal
cultures and languages, as an integral component of traditional knowledge systems, and how traditional management of plant resources has shaped the landscapes and habitats of western Canada.

A Passion for Plants
Take a walk outdoors with UVic's Dr. Nancy Turner and you'll enter a whole new realm of awareness about our relationship with plants and the natural world around us. ...

Order of British Columbia award
Nancy J. Turner of Victoria is an internationally-distinguished scholar and scientist who has devoted her life to documenting the endangered knowledge of First Nations. ...

Lecture Synopsis
Stories from First Nations along the coast of British Columbia feature a small brown bird, whose clear, melodic song in the springtime causes the salmonberries to ripen. In some traditions, including the Saanich (Strait Salish) of southern Vancouver Island, the bird - Swainson's thrush to ornithologists - actually sings the names of the different colour forms of salmonberry: golden, red and dark. ...

Salmonberry Bird Song (as a .wav sound file)
Professor Asifa Quraishi Lecture

Professor Asifa Quraishi
School of Law
University of Wisconsin

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

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE LECTURE

Islamic Law, Women, and the Headlines:
A Commentary

Dr. Quraishi holds a doctorate from Harvard Law School, an LLM from Columbia Law School, a J.D. from the University of California, and B.A. from Berkeley. She has served as law clerk in United States federal courts (for Judge Edward Dean Price, U.S. District Court for Eastern District of California in 1993), and as the death penalty law clerk for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals during 1994–1997. Dr. Quraishi made news in 2001 when she drafted a clemency appeal brief in the case of Bariya Ibrahim Magazu, who was sentenced to flogging in Zamfara, Nigeria. She is an associate of the Muslim Women's League, and has served as past president and board member of Karamah: Muslim Women for Lawyers for Human Rights.

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University of Wisconsin Law School faculty page
Asifa Quraishi, a specialist in Islamic law and legal theory, joined the University of Wisconsin Law School faculty in Fall 2004. Professor Quraishi's expertise ranges from U.S. law on federal court practice to constitutional legal theory, with a comparative focus in Islamic law. At the UW Law School, Quraishi is teaching a combination of core law school classes in Constitutional Law, and electives in Islamic law and jurisprudence. ...

Feminism can't solve all, Muslim speaker advises
Stressing open-mindedness, education and humility as requirements for Western feminists hoping to aid Muslim women, Asifa Quraishi gave a talk last night entitled “Western Advocacy for Muslim Women: It’s Not Just the Thought That Counts.” An assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and a specialist in Islamic law and legal theory, Quraishi discussed the potentially harmful effects misguided efforts from Western feminists can have on the Muslim women they are trying to help. ...

Her Honor: An Islamic Critique of the Rape Laws of Pakistan from a Woman-Sensitive Perspective

This article critiques the rape laws of Pakistan from an Islamic point of view, which is careful to include women’s perspectives in its analysis. Unlike much of what is popularly presented as traditional Islamic law, this woman-affirming Islamic approach will reveal the inherent gender-egalitarian nature of Islam, which is too often ignored by its academics, courts, and legislatures. This article will demonstrate how cultural patriarchy has instead colored the application of certain Islamic laws in places like Pakistan, resulting in the very injustice, which the Qur’an so forcefully condemns. ...
Mr. William Gibson Lecture

Mr. William Gibson
Novelist
Vancouver, B.C.

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on February 9, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

An Evening With William Gibson

Identified by The Literary Encyclopedia as "one of North America's most highly acclaimed science fiction writers", Mr. Gibson published his first novel, Neuromancer in 1974. This was the first novel to win all three major science fiction awards (the Hugo, Nebula, and Philip K. Dick) in the year of its publication. He is credited with coining the term "cyberspace" and has an avid and devoted following among science fiction readers. A writer of short stories, reviews and articles, he has published in numerous outlets including The Observer, New York Times Magazine and Rolling Stone. He was invited to address the National Academy of Sciences in the early 1990s, and has contributed a script to the television series, X-Files. His most recent novels are Pattern Recognition (2003) and Spook Country (2007).

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Autobiographical notes

Gene Wolfe once said that being an only child whose parents are dead is like being the sole survivor of drowned Atlantis. There was a whole civilization there, an entire continent, but it's gone. And you alone remember. That's my story too, my father having died when I was six, my mother when I was eighteen. Brian Aldiss believes that if you look at the life of any novelist, you'll find an early traumatic break, and mine seems no exception. ...

Books by Gibson

Neuromancer: Here is the novel that started it all, launching the cyberpunk generation, and the first novel to win the holy trinity of science fiction: the Hugo Award, the Nebula Award and the Philip K. Dick Award. With Neuromancer, William Gibson introduced the world to cyberspace—and science fiction has never been the same. ...
William Gibson Bibliography / Mediagraphy

Just the facts, but far more complete than the other Johnny-come-lately "6 books and out" lists out there.

All lists are in real-world chronological order. The chronology of the "Sprawl" series is Johnny Mnemonic short story - New Rose Hotel short story - Burning Chrome short story - Neuromancer - Count Zero - Mona Lisa Overdrive. Other stories in Burning Chrome fit more or less tightly into the imagined future of the series. By the time Gibson wrote the Skinner's Room short story - virtual light - Idoru - All Tomorrow's Parties sequence set closer in time, the near future had turned out different from the "Sprawl" future. ...
Professor Tim Brook Lecture

Professor Tim Brook
Department of History
and Institute of Asian Research
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on February 23, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Vermeer's Hat:
What 17th Century Dutch Paintings Reveal of Our Global World

Currently on sabbatical at Oxford University, Dr. Brook is Principal of St. John's College at UBC and holder of the Republic of China Chair in the Institute of Asian Research. He received his doctorate in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University and was an exchange student at both Fudan University and Peking University in the 1970s. Awarded the Joseph Levenson Prize, Association for Asian Studies in 2000, and the Garneau Medal, Canadian Historian Association in 2005, Dr. Brook is the author or coauthor of numerous scholarly works, including Collaboration: Japanese Agents and Chinese Elites in Wartime China; Opium Regimes: China, Britain, and Japan, 1839–1952; The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China; and Quelling the People: The Military Suppression of the Beijing Democracy Movement.

Special lottery draw

Followinhg the lecture, there will be a draw for tickets to the Chan Centre for the March 14 lecture by Dr. Mohammad Yunus. Please see his lecture page for details.

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Department of History, UBC, faculty page

Timothy Brook works on the social and cultural history of the Ming dynasty, the Japanese occupation of China during World War Two, and historical perspectives on world history and human rights. He is currently working on two projects: wartime collaboration, and cultural representations of torture. ...
Dr. Brook's career as a China historian began during his last two years as an undergraduate at the University of Toronto (1969-74). He developed an interest in the Ming period while he was an exchange student in Beijing and Shanghai (1974-76), and continued to pursue this interest in the program in History and East Asian Languages at Harvard University (1976-84). He has authored four books in the field of Ming history, the most recent of which, The Chinese State in Ming Society, will appear shortly. The Association for Asian Studies awarded The Confusions of Pleasure: Commerce and Culture in Ming China the Levenson Prize in 2000 for the best book on the history of China prior to 1900. Future projects include a general history of Yuan and Ming China, the fourth of a five-volume series on the history of imperial China which he is editing for Harvard University Press. ...

When the army first went in at the beginning of June, the assumption on everyone's part is that it was acting according to plan; that the army had been charged to go in, use a maximum show of force and effectively intimidate anyone from ever trying this again. My own research leads to a very different conclusion. I see it as nothing but a trail of disasters from the first time the army appears in Beijing on May 19.

The army was ill prepared. They had a plan of which units would move in along which corridors to try and get to Tiananmen Square, but the details of the operation were a shambles. The army went in without sufficient provisions, without sufficient medical teams. They didn't seem to anticipate the damage they would cause. They didn't anticipate situations they would get in. APC drivers didn't even seem to have maps of the city. The soldiers didn't know how to behave. I think a lot of the soldiers had never even been in a city before; they were country boys. They didn't have the proper equipment; they didn't have the proper training. It was a mess. ...
Dr. David Suzuki Lecture

Dr. David Suzuki
Ecologist, Educator, Activist
Vancouver

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on March 1, 2008 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Sustainability: What is it?

Award-winning scientist, environmentalist and broadcaster, Dr. Suzuki is renowned for his radio and television programs that explain the complexities of the natural sciences in a compelling, easily understood way. He holds 19 honorary degrees and is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and a Companion of the Order of Canada. Author of 43 books, Dr. Suzuki developed and hosted the long running popular science program Quirks and Quarks on CBC Radio. In 1979 he became the host of the award-winning The Nature of Things with David Suzuki and has won four Gemini Awards as best host of a Canadian television series. His television series, A Planet for the Taking, won an award from the United Nations. He has received the John Drainie Award for broadcasting excellence and is the recipient of UNESCO's Kalinga Prize for Science, the United Nations Environment Program Medal and the Global 500.

Special lottery draw

Following the lecture, there will be a draw for tickets to the Chan Centre for the March 14 lecture by Dr. Mohammad Yunus. Please see his lecture page for details.

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Wikipedia entry

David Takayoshi Suzuki, CC, OBC, Ph.D (born March 24, 1936), is a Canadian science broadcaster and environmental activist. Since the mid-1970s, Suzuki has become known for his TV and radio series and books about nature and the environment. He is best known as host of the popular and long-running CBC Television science magazine, The Nature of Things, seen in syndication in over 40 nations. He is also well known for criticizing governments for their lack of action to protect the environment. ...

CBC Archives
For over three decades, David Suzuki has been Canada's foremost environmental conscience. From his experiments with fruit flies to his warnings about genetically modified food, Suzuki has made science relevant, interesting and full of wonder to his audiences. As a broadcaster for the CBC, he has issued frank warnings against industry, the economy and his fellow scientists. Passionate and outspoken, he has also won his fair share of critics. But despite, or perhaps because of this, Suzuki remains undeterred in his message. ...
Professor George Akerlof Lecture

Professor George Akerlof
Nobel Laureate in Economics
Department of Economics
University of California (Berkeley)

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

Economics and Identity:
Moving Beyond the Doctrine of Selfishness

Professor Akerlof won the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2001. A graduate of Yale and MIT, Dr. Akerlof has been President of the American Economic Association and is a trustee of the Economists for Peace and Security. In the conclusion to his acceptance speech for his Nobel Prize, Dr. Akerlof stated that: "Economics is a far richer field with more interesting, realistic, and detailed models than when I first entered the profession. There is now an increased willingness to base economics on findings in the other social sciences. Over the last thirty years we have been gradually evolving an economics that relies more on careful empirical observation, and less on questionable assumption regarding how rational people must behave. It has been a great pleasure to have been a contributor to this development."

Special lottery draw

Following the lecture, there will be a draw for tickets to the Chan Centre for the March 14 lecture by Dr. Mohammad Yunus. Please see his lecture page for details.

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Wikipedia entry

George Arthur Akerlof (born June 17, 1940) is an American economist and Koshland Professor of Economics at the University of California, Berkeley. He won the 2001 Nobel Prize in Economics (shared with Michael Spence and Joseph E. Stiglitz). His father was Swedish and his mother a Jewish/German-American. Akerlof is perhaps best known for his article, "The Market for Lemons: Quality Uncertainty and the Market Mechanism", published in Quarterly Journal of Economics in 1970, in which he identified the severe problems that may afflict markets characterized by asymmetrical information. ...
Autobiography
College and graduate school
Regarding college, I had no choice. My brother had gone to Yale. Even if my brother's choice were not over-riding for my decision, I would probably have heeded the assistant principal of Lawrenceville, who admonished me that I should not wreck my life by even thinking about going to Harvard instead. My first two years at Yale were mainly spent in taking liberal arts courses and working on *The Yale Daily News*. My last two years were spent learning economics, and then math. When I went to Yale, I was convinced that I wanted to be either an economist or an historian. Really, for me it was a distinction without a difference. If I was going to be an historian, then I would be an economic historian. And if I was to be an economist I would consider history as the basis for my economics. ...

US Nobel Laureate Slams Bush Gov't as "Worst" in American History
Published on Tuesday, July 29, 2003 by IRNA and Der Spiegel (Berlin)
BERLIN - American Nobel Prize laureate for Economics George A. Akerlof lashed out at the government of US President George W. Bush, calling it the "worst ever" in American history, the online site of the weekly Der Spiegel magazine reported Tuesday.
"I think this is the worst government the US has ever had in its more than 200 years of history. It has engaged in extraordinarily irresponsible policies not only in foreign policy and economics but also in social and environmental policy," said the 2001 Nobel Prize laureate who teaches economics at the University of California in Berkeley. ...
[The page includes text of *Der Spiegel* interview.]
Dr. Mohammad Yunus Lecture

Dr. Mohammad Yunus
Recipient, 2006 Nobel Peace Prize

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **Friday, March 14, 2008** at 8:00 p.m., Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, University of British Columbia.

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**Michael Smith Memorial Nobel Lecture**

(No bio. The webmaster has been advised that "the reason there is no text is that this is a UBC lecture to which we are attached." Please see "Background" below.)

**Special note regarding locations**

There are no further tickets for Professor Yunus' lecture at the Chan Centre available to the general public, but there are two ways that Institute members will be able to see and hear his talk:

1. We will be showing a live webcast of his talk in Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre.

   **N.B.** Since it's live, it will be the day and time noted above rather than the Institute's usual day and time.

2. The Vancouver Institute has been given 300 tickets to the talk at the Chan. Since The Institute has more than 300 members, we will hold three separate lottery draws of 100 tickets each on:
   - Saturday, February 23, after the talk by Professor Brook,
   - Saturday, March 1, after the talk by Dr. Suzuki, and
   - Saturday, March 8, after the talk by Professor Akerlof.

   Lottery tickets will be provided for free to all registered members only of the Institute and, if your ticket is drawn, you will receive one ticket to the event at the Chan if you are a student or single member, and two tickets if you hold a family membership.

   **NOTE:** If you are not currently a member, you may join immediately (i.e. right after Professor Brook's talk) and be eligible for this draw.

   Entries not drawn February 23 will be eligible for the two subsequent draws.

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UBC Centenary

Professor Muhammad Yunus, recipient of the 2006 Nobel Prize for Economics will deliver the first annual Michael Smith Memorial Nobel Lecture, created in honour of UBC’s Nobel Prize winning chemist, Dr. Michael Smith
[UBC's announcement of this lecture as part of its Centenary celebrations.]

UBC Centenary

UBC will confer upon Professor Muhammad Yunus an Honorary Degree, followed by a Colloquium on Social Corporate Responsibility. Professor Yunus will speak shortly in acceptance of his degree.

[Another event, earlier the same day.]

Muhammad Yunus . org - Home

Business Week Has Named Dr. Yunus as One of "The Greatest Entrepreneurs of All Time"
Prof. Muhammad Yunus, the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner, founded a banking system 30 years ago to lend small amounts of money to the rural poor in Bangladeshi villages. Most of the low-interest microloans go to women, who use them to start their own profit-making enterprises, mainly in agriculture, crafts, or services. ...

Wikipedia entry

Muhammad Yunus (Bengali: মুহাম্মদ ইঁনুস, pronounced Muhammôd Iunûs) (born June 28, 1940) is a Bangladeshi banker and economist. A former professor of economics, he is famous for his successful application of the concept of microcredit, the extension of small loans to entrepreneurs too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans. Yunus is also the founder of Grameen Bank. In 2006, Yunus and the bank were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, "for their efforts to create economic and social development from below."[1] Yunus himself has received several other national and international honors. ...

Grameen - Banking for the poor

Prof. Muhammad Yunus & Grameen Bank Awarded The Nobel Peace Prize for 2006
The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2006, divided into two equal parts, to Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank for their efforts to create economic and social development from below. Lasting peace can not be achieved unless large population groups find ways in which to break out of poverty. Micro-credit is one such means. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights...
Professor Douw Steyn Lecture

Professor Douw Steyn
Department of Earth and Ocean Sciences
University of BC

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

Air Pollution:
How We Treat the Atmosphere Like a Sewer

Dr. Steyn has served as Associate Dean (Research and Faculty Development) in the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Principal of the College for Interdisciplinary Studies. His professional, teaching and research activities are in the field of air pollution meteorology, boundary layer meteorology, mesoscale meteorology, environmental science and interdisciplinary science. His research involves measurement and modelling studies of regional air pollution. He publishes regularly in the international peer reviewed literature, and serves on editorial boards of the journals Boundary Layer Meteorology and Environmental Fluid Mechanics. He is an Accredited Consulting Meteorologist, and has international consultancy experience in his areas of expertise, and has provided expert testimony in numerous court cases and appeal board hearings in British Columbia.

Background Information

(These references were compiled by the webmaster in the hope that they will prove interesting to some readers. The web being what it is, some of them will have vanished by the time you go to look them up, and there is—of course—no guarantee of their accuracy.)

UBC Geology faculty page

Air Pollution Meteorology

My research is primarily driven by an interest in the polluted atmosphere, particularly at the regional scale. I conduct both field measurement and numerical modelling in order to pursue these interests. I have recently been involved in the Pacific 2001 and MAP-Riviera field campaigns, and am part of the Multiscale Air Quality research Network (MAQNet). I have a particular interest in model evaluation/validation.

Air Pollution: The price for our way of life

[UBC Reports article by Duow Steyn and Michael Brauer]

When most of us think of air pollution, images of factories belching smoke or vehicles leaving behind a cloud of soot often come to mind. Such conditions led to historical episodes of deadly air pollution—the most notorious being the great London smog in December of 1952 when there were approximately 12,000 excess deaths resulting from a 5-day period of intense air pollution. With
growing worldwide industrialization, emissions have increased and become more widespread. The introduction of more complex fuels, and combustion occurring in a wider range of conditions, has led to growing toxicity of emissions, and increasingly evident effects on ecosystems. ... 

**We want more action**

The following is an extract from an Open Letter to the Prime Minister of Canada, signed by 90 Canadian climate science leaders, including Philip Austin, Stephen Calvert, Garry Clarke, William Hsieh, Paul LeBlond, Lionel Pandolfo, and Douw Steyn from the UBC Dept. of Earth and Ocean Sciences:

"We concur with the climate-science assessment of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2001, which has also been supported by the Royal Society of Canada and the national academies of science of all G8 countries, as well as those of China, India and Brazil.

"Canada needs a national climate-change strategy, with continued investments in research to track the rate and nature of changes, understand what is happening, to refine projections of changes induced by anthropogenic release of greenhouse gases and to analyze opportunities and threats presented by these changes. ...
Vancouver Institute Contacts

The Institute

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

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The Webmaster

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