Vancouver Institute Spring 2011 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 Spring 2011 season comprises eleven lectures, from January 15 to April 9, omitting February 19th (midterm break) and March 12th.

Spring 2011 Lecture Schedule

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

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<th>Institution/University, Country</th>
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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>Mr. Ray Villard</td>
<td>Space Telescope Science Institute, Johns Hopkins University, Maryland</td>
<td>When Will We Find Earth II—the First Inhabited Extrasolar Planet?</td>
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<td>Jan 22</td>
<td>St. John's College Lecture</td>
<td>Dr. Andrew Goudie, Master, St. Cross College, Oxford University</td>
<td>Desert Dust and the World’s Environments</td>
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<td>Jan 29</td>
<td>Professor Julian Davies</td>
<td>Department of Microbiology &amp; Immunology, UBC</td>
<td>Are We Going Back to the Pre-antibiotic Era?</td>
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<td>Feb 5</td>
<td>Professor Bruce Alexander</td>
<td>Department of Psychology, Simon Fraser University</td>
<td>Addiction: Much More Than a Drug Problem</td>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Mr. Lawrence Martin</td>
<td>Columnist, The Globe &amp; Mail</td>
<td>The Decline and Fall of Canadian Democracy</td>
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<td>Why the West Rules—For Now</td>
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<td>Mar 5</td>
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<td>Professor Sherrill Grace, Department of English, UBC</td>
<td>The Haunting of Canadian Culture: From the Ghost of Tom Thompson to the Ghosts of Vimy Ridge</td>
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<td>Apr 2</td>
<td><strong>ARTHUR ERIKSON MEMORIAL LECTURE IN ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE</strong></td>
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<td>The Transformative Power of Architecture: The Works of Bing Thom</td>
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<td>Apr 9</td>
<td><strong>IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE LECTURE</strong></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 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. Ray Villard Lecture

Mr. Ray Villard
Space Telescope Science Institute
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on January 15, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

When Will We Find Earth II—the First Inhabited Extrasolar Planet?

Mr. Villard has specialized in communicating astronomy to the public for the past 30 years and has received several NASA service awards. As News Director for the Space Telescope Science Institute, he is responsible for disseminating information about the most recent discoveries made with the Hubble Space Telescope. He previously was associate editor for Astronomy Magazine, and Star & Sky magazine. He has written a variety of freelance articles for magazines, encyclopedias, and scripts for several syndicated science programs on public radio. He teaches astronomy courses and hosts public seminars through Johns Hopkins University, the Smithsonian Institution and Howard Community College in Columbia MD.
Dr. Andrew Goudie Lecture

Dr. Andrew Goudie
Master, St. Cross College
Oxford University

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on January 22, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE LECTURE

Desert Dust and the World’s Environments

Dr. Goudie’s main research interests include the geomorphology of deserts, climate change, environmental archaeology and the impact of humans on the environment. He has worked extensively in southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland and Namibia) and the Middle East, including Oman, Jordan, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. As a distinguished physical geographer he has been awarded numerous distinctions including the Founder’s Medal of the Royal Geographical Society in 1991, and the Geological Society of America’s Farouk El-Baz Prize for desert research in 2007.
Professor Julian Davies Lecture

Professor Julian Davies
Department of Microbiology & Immunology
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on January 29, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Are We Going Back to the Pre-antibiotic Era?

Dr. Davies’ studies on recombinant DNA technology in the early 1970s helped shape modern biotechnology. In the 1980s, he nurtured and led the outstanding scientific output from Biogen's European operation. It was at the Harvard Medical School that he made the seminal finding in 1973 that antibiotic resistance genes originated in actinomycetes and transferred horizontally through a chain of closely related organisms to pathogens. Antibiotic resistance genes were central to recombinant DNA technology, some of which Davies also pioneered. In 1992, he moved to Vancouver, where he became head of the microbiology department at UBC. Professor Davies laments the business of antibiotic drug discovery today. "They are making them and selling them," he says, "but they're not doing any research on them. I think it's creating a very serious problem in the infectious diseases world."
Professor Bruce Alexander Lecture

Professor Bruce Alexander
Department of Psychology
Simon Fraser University

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **February 5, 2011** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Addiction: Much More Than a Drug Problem

Professor Alexander is an internationally recognized authority on addiction. Beginning in 1970, he has counselled injecting-drug addicts in Vancouver, conducted psychopharmacological research (the “Rat Park” experiments), advocated for methadone and stimulant maintenance treatment, written on Canadian drug law and drug policy, documented behavioural addictions of university students, conducted cocaine research for the World Health Organization, studied native issues at various BC reserves, and served on the Boards of The Portland Hotel Society and the Vancouver Community Arts Council. His latest book is *The Globalization of Addiction: A Study in Poverty of the Spirit*. He received SFU’s Sterling Prize for Controversy in 2007 and a “High Commendation” from the British Medical Association in 2009.
Mr. Lawrence Martin Lecture

Mr. Lawrence Martin
Columnist
The Globe & Mail

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **February 12, 2011** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

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**The Decline and Fall of Canadian Democracy**

Mr. Martin is a journalist and author in Ottawa. Raised in Hamilton, he is a graduate of McMaster and Harvard University. He served as bureau chief for *The Globe and Mail* in Montreal, Washington and in Moscow where he opened the paper's first bureau in 1985. He is currently an Ottawa-based columnist for the paper. He is the author of ten books including *The Presidents and The Prime Ministers* and a two-volume study of Jean Chretien as well as the recently published *Harperland, The Politics of Control*. He is the recipient, among other honors, of McMaster University's Lifetime Leadership achievement Award.
Professor Ian Morris Lecture

Professor Ian Morris
Departments of Classics and History
Stanford University

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on **February 26, 2011** at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**John K. and Marta Friesen Lecture**

**Why the West Rules—For Now**

Professor Morris began his career as an archaeologist and historian of ancient Greece, studying early texts and excavating sites around the Mediterranean Sea, but in recent years he has moved toward larger-scale questions and an evolutionary approach to world history. His most recent book is the subject of this lecture. His ongoing projects include a book on slavery and globalization, a co-authored study of western civilization and a volume of the forthcoming *Cambridge History of the World*. Professor Morris has directed Stanford University’s excavation at Monte Polizzo, a native Sicilian town of the seventh and sixth centuries BCE. He has appeared on numerous television shows and his prizes and awards include fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and National Endowment for the Humanities. This lecture is made possible through the generous support of Dr. Yosef Wosk.
Professor Sherrill Grace Lecture

Professor Sherrill Grace
Department of English
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on March 5, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

**UBC EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH LECTURE**

**The Haunting of Canadian Culture:**
*From the Ghost of Tom Thompson to the Ghosts of Vimy Ridge*

Professor Grace is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and a Distinguished University Scholar at UBC. Among her awards are the 2008 Canada Council Killam Prize in Humanities, and the Lorne Pierce Medal for her books about the Canadian North. She has published extensively on Canadian literature, the arts, and culture with over 200 articles and chapters and 23 books including: *Canada and the Idea of North*, *Inventing Tom Thomson*, *Making Theatre: A Life of Sharon Pollock* and, most recently, *On the Art of Being Canadian*. She is currently finishing a book about Canada and the two world wars called *Landscapes of Memory*, and she is beginning research for a biography of Timothy Findley.
Professor Jerrilynn Dodds Lecture

Professor Jerrilynn Dodds
Dean, Sarah Lawrence College
Bronxville, New York

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on March 19, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Cecil and Ida Green Lecture

Meaning and Identity of the Destructions of Architecture:
From the Parthenon to the World Trade Center

Dr. Dodds has taught at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Columbia University, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Harvard and MIT. Her scholarly work has centered on issues of artistic interchange between religious groups, and how they form identities through art and architecture. Her most recent co-authored book, Arts of Intimacy: Christians, Jews and Muslims in the Making of Castilian Culture, was cited as one of the “2009 Books of the Year” in the Times Literary Supplement. In 2001, she was chosen to create an exhibition at the Newark Museum in response to the events of 9/11. As a prize-winning filmmaker, Professor Dodds has written and directed films in conjunction with museum exhibitions and has served as a consultant for a range of art historical and preservation concerns.
Professor Gage Averill Lecture

Professor Gage Averill
Dean, Faculty of Arts
UBC

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on March 26, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Prodigal Music:
Repatriating the 'Alan Lomax in Haiti, 1936-37' Collection to Haiti—Lecture with Music

Professor Averill was formerly Vice-Principal Academic and Dean of the University of Toronto Mississauga, Dean of Music at the University of Toronto, and Chair of NYU’s Department of Music. He is currently President of the Society for Ethnomusicology and specializes in music of the Caribbean and North American vernacular music. His book, Four Parts, No Waiting: A Social History of American Barbershop Harmony, won best book prizes from the Society for Ethnomusicology and the Society for American Music, and an earlier book, A Day for the Hunter, a Day for the Prey: Popular Music and Power in Haiti, received the top prize in ethnic and folk research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections. He recently finished a 10-CD boxed set of music and film called Alan Lomax in Haiti, 1936-37.
Mr. Bing Thom, C.M. Lecture

Mr. Bing Thom, C.M.
Principal, Bing Thom Architects Inc.
Vancouver, B.C.

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on April 2, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

ARTHUR ERICKSON MEMORIAL LECTURE IN ARCHITECTURAL EXCELLENCE

The Transformative Power of Architecture:
The Works of Bing Thom

A graduate of UBC and UC-Berkeley, Mr. Thom worked in the offices of Fumihiko Maki and Arthur Erickson before starting his firm in 1980. His many awards include the Golden Jubilee Medal for services to his country; the Order of Canada for his contribution to architecture; two Top Honors for the Excellence on the Waterfront Awards in Washington, D.C.; and countless other awards for excellence in architecture and design. Most recently his firm was awarded the 2010 Architectural Firm of the Year Award by the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Dedicated to helping the next generation of architects, Mr. Thom has been awarded Honorary Degree of Laws from Simon Fraser University and UBC for his major commitment to architecture and community.
Professor William McKibben Lecture

Professor William McKibben
Scholar in Residence
Middlebury College
Vermont

will be addressing the Vancouver Institute on April 9, 2011 at 8:15 p.m., Lecture Hall No. 2 in the Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE LECTURE

Eaarth:
Making a Life On a Tough New Planet

Described by the Boston Globe as “the nation’s leading environmentalist,” Professor McKibben is the author of more than a dozen books, including The End of Nature, Enough: Staying Human in an Engineered Age, and Deep Economy. A former staff writer for the New Yorker, he writes often for Harper’s, National Geographic, and the New York Review of Books, among other publications. He is the founder of the environmental organizations Step It Up and 350.org, a global warming awareness campaign that in October 2009 coordinated what CNN called “the most widespread day of political action in the planet’s history.”
Vancouver Institute Contacts

The Institute

The Vancouver Institute staff may be contacted at this address:

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c/o Green College
6201 Cecil Green Park Road
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z1

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