

10th Annual Humanities Symposium

“Reconnections”

February 1-5, 2021

To mark the occasion of our 10th Humanities Symposium, we have re-invited several outstanding speakers from past events. Over the past year we have all been exploring new ways of connecting with one another, and we look forward to the symposium as a great opportunity to reconnect and explore the theme of reconnections. This time around, our guests will be in conversation with teachers from the Humanities department.

To attend the event, just click on the link in the event description. The link will bring you right into the session. It's not possible to bring your students to the event through Omnivox. Students must access the event individually by clicking on the link.

Please contact me jorgensl@vaniercollege.qc.ca if you would like more information.
Lisa Jorgensen
Humanities Symposium Co-ordinator

Here is our line-up:

Monday, February 1st
8:30-10am

[Simon Blackburn](#)

Simon Blackburn is one of the most influential philosophers today. He is well-known for his efforts to make philosophy accessible to a wider public. He is a retired professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University and is a Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy at the University of Chapel Hill, is a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, and is a member of the professoriate of the New College of the Humanities. His philosophical interests cover a wide area including ethics, philosophy of language, and the philosophy of mind.

Simon Blackburn will be interviewed by Lili Petrovic. They will discuss the erosion of public trust.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/95894163099?pwd=enBqTldpS3lzNnBNZjdLZC9Xdm10UT09>

Webinar ID: 958 9416 3099

Passcode: 626431

Monday, February 1st
10-11:30am

Simon Critchley

Simon Critchley is Hans Jonas Professor at the New School for Social Research in New York City. As the moderator of the philosophy column, "The Stone" for the *New York Times*, Critchley invites thinkers to reflect on issues in art, literature, politics, and popular culture. His writings engage several modes of discourse, including both Anglo-American (analytic) and continental philosophy, philosophy and literature, psychology, psychoanalysis, religion, ethics, and political theory.

Simon Critchley will be interviewed by Jeff Sims, examining issues in philosophy, politics, religion, and science, exemplified by Critchley's writings.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/95257872753?pwd=bEsySDZ0SW9BejZEWGFvanlQSitoZz09>

Webinar ID: 952 5787 2753

Passcode: 968481

Monday, February 1st
2:30-4pm

Rebecca Thomas

Rebecca Thomas is an award-winning Mi'kmaw poet. She was the Poet Laureate for Halifax from 2016-2018. She is the daughter of a residential school survivor and unrelenting advocate for her community. Her poetry collection *I Place You Into the Fire* explores what it means to be a second-generation residential school survivor and is a call for Indigenous justice and empathy. The CBC just included this collection on their list of the best Canadian Poetry of 2020.

Rebecca Thomas will be interviewed by Nirmala Bains. They will discuss Rebecca Thomas' experience as the poet Laureate of Halifax, as well as topics including power and systemic racism.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/94857259659?pwd=M3Y5d2x6VXR0T0l5WFpzSksrS25oQT09>

Webinar ID: 948 5725 9659

Passcode: 905530

Monday, February 1st
4-5:30pm

Rawi Hage

Rawi Hage is an award-winning writer. He was born in Beirut, Lebanon, and lived through nine years of the Lebanese civil war during the 1970s and 1980s. He immigrated to Canada in 1992 and now lives in Montreal. His first novel, *De Niro's Game*, won the IMPAC Dublin Literary Award for the best English-language book published anywhere in the world and has either won or been shortlisted for seven other major awards and prizes, including the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Governor General's Literary Award. *Cockroach* was the winner of the Paragraphe Hugh MacLennan Prize for Fiction and a finalist for the Governor General's Award. His work has been translated into 30 languages.

Rawi Hage will be interviewed by Lalai Manjikian. They will discuss Hage's writing process, writing about war, as well as the impact of war and subsequent immigration.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/91356119679?pwd=MTBXKzFXL3lxY3dTYUJ2MjZ3NG5XUT09>

Webinar ID: 913 5611 9679

Passcode: 750026

Tuesday, February 2nd
8:30-10am

Charmaine Nelson

Charmaine Nelson is an Art History Professor at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and founder of the Institute for the Study of Canadian Slavery. Her work investigates the how slavery in Canada was incorporated into Atlantic slavery. She has taught courses in Canadian art and the visual culture of transatlantic slavery. Her recent research has focused on Canadian fugitive slave advertisements, which are meticulous physical descriptions of enslaved people written by their owners that were used during auctions, sales or as notices of runaway slaves.

Charmaine Nelson will be interviewed by Brian Aboud. The topics of discussion will include the trans-Atlantic slave trade, slavery in Montreal and Quebec (especially the enslavement of Africans during the 18th and early 19th centuries), slavery in colonial art and imagery and the relevance and importance of the slave period to our understanding of present-day struggles against racism.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/93594411436?pwd=eGE1WkZTSVBaQTNmUG9JeFhBNGtRZz09>

Webinar ID: 935 9441 1436

Passcode: 281023

Wednesday, February 3rd
10-30-12pm

Heba Mostafa

Heba Mostafa is an Assistant Professor of Art History at the University of Toronto. Mostafa specializes in the history of sacred space, embodiment and ritual practice in Medieval Islam with a particular interest in the cultural and intellectual history of the central Islamic lands during the first century of the Islamic empire. She is also working on two side projects, the first focused on Nile veneration practices in Medieval Cairo and the second focused on the Haram al-Sharif in Jerusalem during the period of the Crusades, the latter funded in part by the Getty Foundation Connecting Art Histories Program.

Heba Mostafa will be interviewed by Sevak Manjikian. The interview will uncover some interesting facts about architectural sites and features that appeared in early Islamic history.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/91214750680?pwd=Y2gwUEkwWDILL25KWnlQRVhOU0JSZz09>

Webinar ID: 912 1475 0680

Passcode: 028182

Thursday, February 4th
8:30-10am

Payam Akhavan

Payam Akhavan is a Professor of Law at McGill University. He teaches and researches on public International law, international dispute settlement, international criminal law, human rights and cultural pluralism. He was a UN prosecutor at The Hague and in 2016 was appointed a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. In 2017, he delivered the CBC Massey Lectures, *In Search of a Better World: A Human Rights Odyssey*. His companion book was the number one best-seller (non-fiction) in Canada.

Payam Akhavan will be interviewed by Sheila Das. They will discuss how we may hope to diminish the radical evil of genocide and human atrocities by understanding the dynamics of hate, the role of law, and by deepening the connection that we share with all of humanity to spur real engagement to build a better world.

[Zoom link to event](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/93224612821?pwd=SkpkWDV6aGVlO0tYR0hCNVp0UGFnZz09>

Webinar ID: 932 2461 2821

Passcode: 268062

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