
GEORGIAN TRIANGLE LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

for people who love to learn

**2026 - 2027
Lectures**



GTLLI is a non-profit organization,
founded in 1995.

We offer university-level lectures given by experts from various
fields.

GTLLI is maintained by volunteers and funded by lecture
registration fees.

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GTLLI COURSE REGISTRATION

2026 – 2027

TICKETS

(includes videos)

Perspectives (4 lectures)	\$52
Fall Series (6 lectures)	\$78
Winter Series (6 lectures)	\$78
Spring Series (6 lectures)	\$78

(PLUS HST)

NON-REFUNDABLE BUT TRANSFERABLE

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tickets will be available for purchase.*

To receive GTLLI member communications, please go to
www.gtlli.ca to create an account and you will receive email
updates.

Feel free to share this brochure with your family and friends.

We look forward to another engaging lineup for the

2026-2027 season!

PERSPECTIVE SERIES 2026: A COLLECTION OF INDEPENDENT LECTURES

Sep 11, 18, 25, Oct 2

This four-part series is a collection of independent lectures designed to enlighten, engage and inform. This year, the topics provide a window on stolen art – both fact and fiction; the evolution of vehicles including the role of AI; the positive side of playing of video games; and how healthy is our Georgian Bay.

SEP 11 STEALING ART: MYTHS, MOTIVES AND METHODS

While most art thieves target modest works at small institutions, even world-class museums like the Louvre aren't immune to the danger. This lecture will explore the fictionalization of stolen art and its entry into the popular imagination, as well as actual cases and the grittier reality behind them. As part of this talk, we will also highlight specific stolen works of art; some recovered, some lost forever.

Dr. Angela Glover has a Ph.D. in Art History from the University of Toronto. She enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for art history through teaching at University of Toronto's School of Continuing Studies and at two other educational programming initiatives - The Speakers Annex, and The Roundtable by 92NY (an online program). An Art Gallery of Ontario's courier trip accompanying a previously stolen painting led to Angela's interest in the topic of art theft.

SEP 18 THE VEHICLE ARMS RACE IN CANADA

This lecture explores the evolution of vehicles from gas-powered engines to electric propulsion amid a growing “vehicle arms race” favouring larger, ever more powerful cars (‘autobesity’). It examines the environmental impacts of combustion vehicles, motivations for electrification, and advances in autonomous driving. The role of artificial intelligence and machine learning in enabling self-driving systems, along with key benefits, risks, and ethical challenges, will also be discussed.

Dr. Amir Khajepour is a professor of Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering and Executive Director of the Waterloo Center for Automotive Research (WatCAR) at the University of Waterloo. He held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Mechatronic Vehicle Systems from 2008 to 2022 and the Senior NSERC (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada)/General Motors Industrial Research Chair in Holistic Vehicle Control from 2017 to 2022. His work includes over 600 publications, 30 patents, extensive student training, technology transfers, and startups.

SEP 25 THE POWER OF PLAY

This lecture will explore how the same design principles that make games engaging - clear goals, immediate feedback, and meaningful choice - are now being used to inspire creativity, improve health outcomes, and deepen learning, demonstrating that video games are not simply a distraction from meaningful pursuits, but an emerging platform for human growth and positive societal impact.

Dr. Steve Engels (BASc, MMath, PhD) has been a Professor of Teaching in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Toronto since 2002. Steve is an award-winning instructor for courses in computer organization, artificial intelligence and video game design. He also coordinates digital media faculty across Ontario and works extensively with industry groups, helping students and colleagues address real-world problems.

OCT 2 THE HEALTH OF GEORGIAN BAY

Georgian Bay is one of the world's most extraordinary freshwater ecosystems — but how healthy is it today? This talk explores the Bay's condition through science-based monitoring, the pressures it faces from climate change, invasive species, and development, and places these trends in historical context. You'll gain a clear, compelling understanding of the challenges, the progress, and what the future may hold.

David Sweetnam is the Executive Director of Georgian Bay Forever, a Top 100 Canadian charity dedicated to protecting the Bay through science driving community action. A lifelong explorer of Georgian Bay, he now leads programs tackling climate impacts, invasive species, water quality, and habitat loss. His work blends science, storytelling, and decades of on-the-water experience to reveal what the Bay's future may hold and what factors it may depend on.

FALL SERIES BELOW

FALL SERIES 2026: THE ART AND ALLURE OF CINEMA

Oct 16, 23, 30, Nov 6, 13, 20

This six-part lecture series will examine the dynamic artform of film from a variety of pertinent perspectives. You'll learn how film functions as a distinct medium, before delving into topics that focus on the American film industry; the power of stardom and the pull of genres; the role of the film author; and cinema's social functions and effects.

Dr. Charlie Keil is a professor in the Cinema Studies Institute and the Department of History at the University of Toronto, where he also serves as Principal of Innis College. He has published eight books and over 50 articles, most of them focusing on American cinema, often of the silent era. His teaching has been recognized by multiple awards, and he is a member of the President's Teaching Academy.

OCT 16 THE LANGUAGE OF CINEMA

The medium of film distinguishes itself from other artforms by using distinct techniques and methods to tell stories. This lecture will explore how what appears before the camera is shot and edited and then integrated with sound to produce what we can identify as filmic style. We will then analyze filmic style with an eye to its functions and effects.

OCT 23 THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN CINEMA

No other film industry has proven more powerful and influential than that of the United States. Now considered synonymous with the place name of "Hollywood," the mature American film industry has survived—and often thrived—for over a century. This lecture will examine the strategies the industry has pursued to sustain its global dominance.

OCT 30 POPULAR GENRES

The conventions of cinematic storytelling have often been shaped to produce recurring bodies of film that possess recognizable shared characteristics. And these key genres have exerted a strong pull on audience members, building strong fan bases for genres as diverse as the rom com and the horror film. What social significance might genre films possess?

NOV 6 STARDOM

The figure of the star has been strongly tied to cinema's status as a "dream factory" since the star system was developed in the early 1910s. During their heyday, stars were the engine that propelled the film industry to great heights, but they rarely enjoyed much economic freedom. The current situation sees stars possessing more autonomy but less box-office clout.

Adam Nayman is a critic, lecturer and author based in Toronto. He teaches courses at the Cinema Studies Institute at U of T and has written books on the Coen brothers, David Fincher and Paul Thomas Anderson, as well as a critical monograph on Paul Verhoeven's *Showgirls*. He is a regular contributor to *The Ringer*, *The Toronto Star*, *Sight and Sound*, *Reverse Shot* and the *New Republic* and has written on film for *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *The Walrus*, and other publications.

NOV 13 AUTHORSHIP

The figure of the director has long loomed large in film history: are directors inspired creators or manipulative puppet masters? The lecture will examine the multiple decisions directors make while also considering how their work has been conceptualized by such critical approaches as the “auteur theory,” which privileges a director’s “world view.” And, of course, parts of the moviegoing public are drawn to certain directors for their distinctive style or their associations with key genres. The Coen Brothers will serve as a revealing case study, demonstrating the ongoing appeal exerted by directors.

NOV 20 CINEMA AND SOCIETY

Bertolt Brecht once said that art can be a mirror or a hammer; with this in mind, should we say that cinema reflects society or actively re-shapes it? This lecture will also examine how film’s capacity for critique is always counterbalanced by its tendency toward escapism. And the medium’s ability to represent the world around us, what some would call its inherent realism, may now see itself called into question as the age of digitization transforms all the reproductive media, film among them.

WINTER SERIES BELOW

WINTER SERIES 2027: CRITICAL THINKING ABOUT IMPORTANT ISSUES

Jan 8, 15, 22, 29 Feb 5, 12

In this lecture series, Dr. Christopher DiCarlo – a philosopher and author – will examine and discuss a wide variety of topics dealing with some of the most important issues facing us today. These will be examined through the lens of Critical Thinking and range from the study of ethics, love, the social and political issues of euthanasia, the advancements of Artificial Intelligence, and how to deal with misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories.

Dr. Christopher DiCarlo is a philosopher, educator, and author. He is the Principal and Founder of Critical Thinking Solutions, a consulting business for individuals, corporations, and not-for-profits in both the private and public sectors. He currently holds the position of Senior Researcher and Ethicist at Convergence Analysis – a UK-based agency focusing on AI Risk and Governance. Dr. DiCarlo is also the Ethics Chair for the Canadian Mental Health Association and a past Visiting Research Scholar at Harvard University. He has won several awards including TV Ontario's Best Lecturer in Ontario Award, and Canada's Humanist of the Year.

JAN 8 THE ABCs OF CRITICAL THINKING: AN INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, thinkers across philosophy, mathematics, science, and literature have developed critical thinking skills that help us judge the value of information. These are distilled into six memorable steps, each tied to the first six letters of the alphabet: A is for Argument, B for Bias, C for Context, D for Diagram, E for Evidence, and F for Fallacies. Together, these tools guide clearer reasoning and more meaningful discussions on any topic. What you think is up to you. But there are specific rules that govern better and worse ways regarding 'how' we think.

JAN 15 GOOD VS EVIL—HOW SHOULD WE BEHAVE?

This lecture examines some of the foundational concepts in the branch of Philosophy called Ethics. We will consider thought experiments or 'What would you do?' scenarios which pose ethical dilemmas and challenge us to carefully assess how we might act. We will also examine the ethical theories of various philosophers throughout history to see how their theories apply to such dilemmas and to what extent other animal species practice ethical codes of conduct.

JAN 22 EUTHANASIA

From the Greek *eu* meaning 'well' or 'good' and *thanatos* meaning 'death', the term 'euthanasia' literally means 'to have a good death'. But what does that mean? And who should decide? And why? In this lecture, we will consider the history of mercy killing and its evolution and development as Medical Assistance in Dying (or MAID) in Canada.

JAN 29 CRITICALLY THINKING ABOUT AI AND THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY

What is Artificial Intelligence or AI? How will it affect and change our lives? What are its benefits and, more importantly, what are the risks associated with its inevitable developments? In this lecture, we consider some of the main advances of AI which will change our lives forever. We look at some of the potential obstacles and pitfalls which may become apparent as we move into the future. From naysayers to doomsdayers, we will consider all perspectives as these new forms of technology undoubtedly change our lives.

FEB 5 MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION, AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Why is there so much misinformation and disinformation circulating on popular media? And why do there seem to be so many conspiracy theories? In this lecture, we consider the causal factors which have led to our current state of confusion. In so doing, we are better able to understand the constraints which bias points of view. We also look at the simultaneous demise of newsprint journalism and the rise of social media as contributing factors behind the proliferation of such information. Finally, we consider some of the ways in which we might engage with those in our lives who subscribe to such views.

FEB 12 LOVE THROUGH THE AGES

As we approach the feast of St. Valentine's – when "love is in the air" – it would seem apropos to consider the nature of this most perplexing, yet wondrous of human emotions. The Ancient Greeks defined love in at least six different ways. How do these apply within our own lives? We then turn to the Science of Love and consider some of the neuroscientific research. We also look at some of the Depictions of Love in the Arts and we finish by reminiscing fondly over some of the more famous Love Quotations.

SPRING SERIES BELOW

SPRING SERIES 2027: THE CHALLENGES AND PRESSURES FACING THE CANADIAN ARCTIC

Mar 19, Apr 2, 9, 16, 30, May 7

After years of low visibility, our northern frontier is in the news and on the government's radar. It's a region strongly impacted by climate change. This six-part series examines the people, animals and plants, resource potential, infrastructure challenges, energy needs and geopolitical pressures.

MAR 19 INSIGHTS INTO THE INUIT CULTURE

This lecture will explore the history and culture of the Canadian Inuit, including the regions where Inuit people live today, and their culture, traditions and language. The lecture will describe the modern life of the Inuit and the challenges they face.

Muckapaloo Ipeelie is an Inuk leader and founder of the Urban Inuit Identity Project in Ontario. This project is dedicated to strengthening the Inuit cultural identity through education, advocacy, workshops and inclusion programs for schools, healthcare providers and government organizations. Muckpaloo also acts as a mentor for Inuit entrepreneurs.

APR 2 INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT IN THE NORTH

The Canadian Arctic is a harsh demanding land rich in critical resources with its own indigenous community. Sustainable growth in the North will require technical and organizational innovation, and critical infrastructure investment. Public and private participation will be essential to develop the potential that the North holds for Canada.

Dr. Jessica Shadian is the President and CEO of Arctic 360. She is a researcher, associate professor and consultant with a focus on the global politics of the Arctic, Arctic indigenous governance and law, critical Arctic infrastructure, innovation and investment. Individually and through Arctic 360 she works with government bodies, the private sector and indigenous development corporations to educate, inspire and attract investment into the North American Arctic.

APR 9 BUILDING IN CANADA'S ARCTIC: THE PERMAFROST CHALLENGE

Permafrost thaw is quietly but profoundly changing the ground beneath northern infrastructure. This lecture brings together real field measurements, hands-on laboratory research, and future temperature projections to show how conditions are evolving, and what it means for the long-term reliability of Canada's arctic transportation systems. Practical engineering solutions and lessons from current projects will be highlighted throughout.

Dr. Ryley Beddoe is a Professor at the Royal Military College whose research examines how climate change affects geotechnical design and infrastructure in Canada's Arctic. Her work addresses permafrost degradation and focuses on resilient and adaptive techniques for northern roads and railways, including the Hudson Bay Railway, and ice road performance.

APR 16 THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE ARCTIC

This lecture will explore the impact of climate change on the flora and fauna of the Arctic and what should be done to mitigate these issues of endangered species, biodiversity loss and ecosystem shifts. Actions begin with supporting the rights-holders of the land and waters. The Indigenous communities of the Arctic have intimate knowledge that needs to be respected and funded.

Dr. Shoshanah Jacobs is a Professor in the College of Biological Sciences at the University of Guelph and University Fellow in Contextual Education. After a B.Sc. and M.Sc. from the University of New Brunswick, Shoshanah earned a Ph.D. from the University of Ottawa in 2008, researching Arctic seabird ecophysiology in Nunavut. Dr. Jacobs teaches and conducts research on climate change in the Arctic and elsewhere.

APR 30 ARCTIC SOVEREIGNTY AND SECURITY: CLARIFYING THE ISSUES

This lecture will explore the perceived need for Canada to strengthen security and sovereignty in the Arctic, and how this relates to historical and contemporary threats through, to, and in the region. This talk is especially timely in light of Prime Minister Carney's recently announced plans to upgrade military infrastructure and the Canadian Armed Forces presence in the North, in collaboration with Indigenous governments and our Nordic Allies.

Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer is Professor and Canada Research Chair in the Study of the Canadian North at Trent University, and the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group based in Yellowknife. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Calgary and is one of Canada's foremost authorities on Arctic history and Northern security. He often serves as a consultant on Arctic security issues for Canadian and Allied governments.

MAY 7 THE CHALLENGE OF POWERING CANADA'S ARCTIC

As a resource hungry world turns its gaze to the Arctic, Canada's economic activity and military presence are both poised for rapid expansion. But with extended periods of total darkness and freezing temperatures, where will the prodigious amounts of energy needed to power this future come from? In this lecture we'll learn the ins and outs of powering our remote Arctic.

Peter Lang spent 40 years in aviation as a high-arctic frontier pilot, RCAF fighter pilot, and now retired airline captain. In 2008 he founded Dunedin Energy Systems to explore energy alternatives for Arctic Canada. He is now leading the development of a micro-nuclear power plant designed to meet the growing electricity and heating needs of Canada's arctic communities and military facilities.

