



416 978 7553 • senior.college@utoronto.ca
• seniorcollege.utoronto.ca

With thanks to our donors:



19th Annual Senior College Symposium, April 17, 2024

9am-4pm at the U of T Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks (or by Zoom)

Disappearing Discourses?

New Perspectives on Journalism and Literature in Canada

Co-Chairs: Bill Logan and Margaret Procter

Symposium Committee: Patricia Brubaker (ex officio), Linda Hutcheon (ex officio), Carl Baar, Deanne Bogdan, Larry Bourne, Jeffrey Dvorkin, Daphne Maurer, Suzanne Hidi, Giuliana Katz, Merrijoy Kelner, Scott Rogers

9:00-9:10am: Welcome from **Michael Hutcheon**, Principal, Senior College

9:10-10am: Session Chair, Jeffrey Dvorkin

Jonathan Kay (newspaper columnist, magazine editor, podcast host):

“Why Mainstream Journalism Won’t Investigate Issues of Cultural Controversy”

Jonathan Kay is a former engineer, lawyer, newspaper columnist and magazine editor. He now serves as editor and podcast host for Quillette, a media outlet based in Australia. He has gained a reputation for fearless reporting amid an atmosphere of media hesitancy.

Website: <https://linktr.ee/jonkay>

His short talk will share his thoughts on why journalists are increasingly reluctant to deal with controversies, and on why they should. As one example, he will outline how he was able to uncover and analyse issues plaguing the Psychology Department at McMaster. They made front-page news but were not fully examined by local or national newsrooms.

10-10:15am: Refreshment break in Main Lounge next door

10:15-11:05am: Session Chair, Jeffrey Dvorkin

Rhythm Sachdeva (Toronto Star; Fellow, Dalla Lana Journalism and Health Impact):
“Adventures of a Start-Up Journalist”

Rhythm Sachdeva is an early-career journalist who, within three years, has worked with some of Canada's most prominent newsrooms, including the Toronto Star, the Canadian Press, CTV News, and Postmedia. As a Global Journalism fellow at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Investigative Journalism Bureau, her stories cover topics ranging from Canada’s evolving immigration landscape to the relationships between healthcare professionals and lobby groups.

Website: <https://dlsphjournalism.tumblr.com/tagged/RhythmSachdeva>

Drawing on her experience and observations, Rhythm will address workplace challenges that plague public discourse, including precarious work conditions, freelance exploitation, and the erosion of journalistic standards. Through personal anecdotes and industry insights, she aims to provoke discourse on the need for systemic reforms to safeguard the integrity of journalism and fortify democratic values in Canada.

Website: <https://dlsphjournalism.tumblr.com/tagged/RhythmSachdeva>

11:05-11:55am: Session Chair, Margaret Procter

Donovan Vincent (public editor, Toronto Star):
“Sustaining the Concept of Media and Democracy in a Digital Age”

Donovan Vincent has more than three decades of experience at the Toronto Star. His coverage has ranged from the housing beat to crime and justice to municipal politics, including city hall during then-mayor David Miller’s time in office. He studied journalism at Ryerson University (now TMU), where he earned a graduate degree before joining the Star. His work on a series on mental health helped the Star earn a Michener Award in 1998 for public service journalism and he received a National Newspaper Award for spot news in 1996.

Website: <https://www.thestar.com/users/profile/donovan-vincent/>

Donovan will examine the function and value of the public editor in contemporary public discourse. At the Star, his office handles readers’ queries about accuracy and looks into claims of error in all content in all platforms on which the Star publishes. It upholds the Star’s journalistic standards as set out in the *Torstar Journalistic Standards Guide*.

Donovan is also noted for questioning and upholding standards of equity and inclusiveness in a newspaper that prides itself on progressive values.

Website: <https://www.thestar.com/users/profile/donovan-vincent/>

11:55am-12:45pm: Buffet lunch in the Main Lounge

12:45-1:35pm: Session Chair, Bill Logan

Ian Brown (Globe & Mail, memoir *The Boy in the Moon*):

“Can Long-Form Narrative Reporting Survive the Internet?”

Ian Brown writes immersive, deeply reported, narratively-driven feature stories about a wide variety of subjects. He began his professional life at the Financial Post, writing about real estate, corporate intrigue and Ontario politics. Moving to Los Angeles, he wrote about golf, surfing and American culture. His three-part series about his disabled son was among the first multi-media stories published in The Globe and Mail, and went on to become a multiple-award winning book, *The Boy in the Moon*, which the New York Times judged one of the 10 best books of 2011. It has been published in seven languages.

Website: <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/authors/ian-brown/>

Ian’s work is noted for thoughtfulness as well as wit and sharp detail. His talk will inform us on how journalists propose larger topics and then negotiate for time to research, analyse, and write about them. It will examine the status of narrative journalism in Canada now and describe current adaptations to new media and public expectations.

1:35-2:25pm: Session Chair, Linda Hutcheon

“Literature in Canada: Making it Thrive”

Joanne Saul (Type Books) and **Dan Wells** (Biblioasis Press)

A panel on the importance of booksellers and book publishers with:

- **Joanne Saul**, the co-founder (in 2006) of Type Books, an independent Toronto bookstore (with three locations and a vibrant online presence) with strong ties to its local community (readings, book launches, signings). In her move from the academic world of Canadian Literature studies to co-creating an “independent bookstore for serious book lovers and more whimsical readers alike,” she has brought Canadian writing into the lives of many new readers.
Website: <https://typebooks.ca/>
- **Daniel Wells**, the founder of Biblioasis, for over 25 years a “proudly independent” bookstore (selling “carefully curated” new and used books) in Windsor, ON. At the same time, he has made Biblioasis into one of the most successful small presses in Canada, committed to publishing the best poetry, fiction and non-fiction in beautifully crafted editions.

Website: <https://www.biblioasis.com/>

2:25-2:40pm: Refreshment break in the Main Lounge

2:40-4pm: Session Chair, Linda Hutcheon
“Literature in Canada: Making it Happen”

A panel of authors on writing in Canada today—and tomorrow, with:

- **Robert McGill** (panel moderator) is a Professor of English at the University of Toronto. He is the author of three novels: *The Mysteries*, *Once We Had a Country*, and *A Suitable Companion for the End of Your Life*. He has also published two nonfiction books: *The Treacherous Imagination* and *War Is Here: The Vietnam War and Canadian Literature*. His short stories have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *The Dublin Review*, and *Hazlitt*, among others. This fall, Coach House Books will publish his debut short fiction collection, *Simple Creatures*.
 Website: <https://www.robert-mcgill.com/about/>
- **Thea Lim** (panelist) is the author of *An Ocean of Minutes*, which was a finalist for multiple national and international prizes for fiction. Her short-form writing has been published in *Granta*, *The Nation*, *The Paris Review*, *The Guardian*, and others. She has served as creative writing faculty and mentor in many programs, including at the University of Toronto, Sheridan College, the Writers' Trust of Canada, and the University of Guelph. Last year she was the Barker Fairley Distinguished Visitor at University College and she is currently the Writer-in-Residence at UTSC.
 Website: <https://thealim.org/about/>
- **Drew Hayden Taylor** (panelist) is an award-winning playwright, filmmaker, author and contemporary storyteller. Born and living on the Curve Lake First Nation in Central Ontario, he has done everything from performing stand-up comedy at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. to being Artistic Director of Canada's premiere Indigenous theatre company, Native Earth Performing Arts. His 35th book, a novel titled *COLD* has just been released by McClelland & Stewart, and the third season of his APTN documentary series, *GOING NATIVE*, will air in May.
 Website: <https://www.drewhaydentaylor.com/>
- **Ian Williams** (panelist) is the author of six books of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry, including *Reproduction*, which won the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and *Disorientation*, a Boston Globe Best Book of the Year. He is currently the director of the M.A. in English in the Field of Creative Writing at the University of Toronto.
 Website: <https://www.ianwilliams.ca/>

4-4:10pm: Concluding remarks and invitation to reception in Main Lounge (to 5pm)