
[Dr. Rachel Cleves](#)

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A Historian's Guide to Food and Sex in Time: Being a Complete Description of the Stews, Cafés, Saloons, Dinner Tables, Restaurants and Breastaurants That Have Served the Alimentary and Amatory Appetites Through History

Grades: 11 and up

In-person or online

Projector necessary

Language: English

Description: In 1947, when Elizabeth David wrote her first Mediterranean cookbook, introducing recipes for olives, almonds, apricots, and lemons for a postwar British readership, she reflected, "those were dirty words that I was putting down." This talk explores how good food and illicit sexuality became associated in the Anglo imagination, how that association changed over time, and how it fell apart following the countercultural revolution of the 1970s.

[Dr. Peter Cook](#)

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The First Treaties: The Roots of Indigenous-Settler Relations in Canada

Grades 6-8: yes

Grades 9-12: yes

VIRTUAL: in-person, online

TOOLS: In-person, the availability of a digital data projector is preferred. Online, Zoom is ideal but other platforms may be possible as well.

LANGUAGE: English or French

DESCRIPTION: This talk explores the 500-year history of alliances and treaties involving the Indigenous peoples of what is now Canada and settlers who arrived from Europe and elsewhere after 1500. Its focus is on the lesser-known treaties negotiated before Confederation in 1867, including the Vancouver Island treaties of 1850-54.

BIO: Peter grew up in the Ottawa Valley and attended the University of Toronto, Université Laval, the University of Ottawa, and McGill University. His research examines the alliances forged between Indigenous nations of eastern North America and European colonies (New France in particular) in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. He is currently working on a case study of Indigenous-settler relations along the upper St Lawrence River after the American Revolution.

[Dr. Simon Devereaux](#)

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Conspiracy Thinking: A Rational Guide to Thinking Irrationally

This talk introduces the major human needs that animate conspiracy thinking in the modern world: the need for big explanations for largescale disasters; the need to believe that order prevails over chaos; and the superior appeal of complexity by comparison with simple answers.

Conspiracy Thinking: UFOs Over America, 1947-69

This talk examines the nature and investigation of Unidentified Flying Objects (or Flying Saucers) in America during the first two decades after World War II.

Conspiracy Thinking: Extraterrestrials in America since 1966

This talk offers some explanations for the abiding belief that beings from another world have contacted human beings and are engaged with them in both positive and sinister ways.

Conspiracy Thinking: The Unending Mysteries of the JFK Assassination

This talk considers how decisions made in the immediate aftermath of the assassination of Pres. John Kennedy – perhaps the greatest public trauma of the postwar era – gave rise to our abiding belief that the crime was the work of various sinister forces in American society.

Murder, Bodysnatching, and Anatomization in England, 1752-1832

This talk reveals the relationship between public execution, anatomical education and graverobbing in late Georgian England.

Execution, Transportation, and the Founding of Australia, 1775-1789

In the popular imagination, all forms of punishment in pre-modern England were brutal. This talk shows how transportation was an indispensable alternative to hanging large numbers of people and explores how the absence of that alternative during the 1780s led to executions on an almost unprecedented scale.

Jack the Ripper and the Royal Family: Murder and Myth

This talk reviews the many different theories which, since 1970, have suggested that Jack the Ripper – the most famous killer in history – was either a member of the royal family or someone acting on its behalf.

The Golden Age of the English Detective Novel

The years between the First and Second World Wars are universally seen as the “golden age” of English detective fiction. This talk suggests why this was the case through the examples of Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers and G.K. Chesterton – and, of course, their forebear Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Why was Capital Punishment Abolished in Postwar Britain?

In 1945 the abolition of execution for murder seemed unimaginable to most English people. Twenty years later it took place. This talk briefly reviews the issues and cases which led to this most striking of criminal justice reforms.

Bad Kings: The Madness of George III, 1760-1820

George III's insanity is now probably the most widely known fact of his long reign. This talk revisits the nature and significance of the madness of King George.

Bad Kings: George IV and William IV, 1820-1837

Contempt for the monarchy is not a recent development. This talk reveals how the reigns of two of George III's sons – men of extraordinary personal and fiscal dissolution – brought the institution to a historical low-point just before the accession of their niece Victoria would restore its lustre.

Bad Kings: Edward VIII & the Abdication Crisis (1936)

More than eighty years after, King Edward VIII's abdication of the British throne still haunts the royal family. This talk locates the Abdication Crisis in the king's own character and reviews some of the controversies which surround the Crisis and its outcome to this day.

The War of the Windsors: Charles and Diana, 1981-1997

The marriage of Charles Prince of Wales to Lady Diana Spencer ended in a mutual acrimony that was relentlessly detailed by a press which once had celebrated their "fairy-tale romance". This talk reviews the story and considers how close it came to destroying the British monarchy.

[Dr. Andrea McKenzie](#)

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Petty Traitors and Domestic Tyrants: Spouse Murder in England, 1660-1800

(also available in French: Brûlée au Bucher ? « Petite trahison » et meurtre conjugal aux assises de Old Bailey à Londres, Angleterre, 1674-1790)

The Bloody Code: the Criminal Law in 17th and 18th Century England

The Mystery of the Lost Norse Colony of Greenland

Remember, Remember the Fifth of November: the 1605 Gunpowder Plot

Royal Martyr or “Man of Blood”? Spinning the Execution of Charles I, 1649

The Strange Origins of the First Modern Political Party: the Whigs, Anti-Catholicism and Conspiracy Theories in 17thc England

The Great Fire of London, September 1666

Who Killed Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey? Revisiting the Most Famous Murder Mystery of the 17th Century

“The Bottomless Pit’: Conspiracy Theories and the Mysterious Death of Sir Edmund Berry Godfrey, 1678”

Medieval Conspiracy Theories: Antisemitism in Europe, c. 1000-1400

The Real Witch Hunts: Witchcraft Prosecutions in Europe, c. 1400-1700

The Salem Witch Trials, 1692-3: Anatomy of a Moral Panic

[Dr. Patricia Roy](#)

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AUDIENCE: Adults, especially seniors

DELIVERY: In person only

LANGUAGE: English

TOOLS: All presentations rely on PowerPoint. I can supply a computer but the host must provide a projector and screen.

BIOGRAPHY: Patricia Roy taught the history of British Columbia, her native province, at the University of Victoria for many years and has written extensively about BC's history. Her most recent book is *John Hart: A Businessman in British Columbia Politics* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2025).

"A History of Highways"

With the use of political cartoons and photographs, this talk lightly sketches the history of some of the major roads in British Columbia.

"Fun with the Ferries"

B.C. Ferries have inspired many cartoonists but this illustrated talk also shows earlier ways of travelling between Vancouver Island and the Mainland.

"John Hart: An Almost Forgotten Premier of British Columbia"

Hart, an Irish immigrant, served as provincial finance minister for twenty years and as premier for six. This illustrated talk concentrates on his premiership, 1941-47, a period of major change in the province.

"British Columbia's Ambiguous Relationship with the Rest of Canada"

With the help of editorial cartoons, this presentation traces British Columbia's dealings with the rest of Canada from the time of Confederation to close to the present day.

[Dr. Kristin Semmens](#)

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“I won’t go along with this”: Resistance by the Persecuted in Nazi Germany

This talk explores varieties of resistance enacted by Hitler’s victims between 1933 and 1945 in Germany. Taking a uniquely broad definition of what qualifies as resistance, in recognition of how narrow the horizon of possibilities was for the Nazis’ most hated targets, Semmens outlines a variety of forms of opposition. These include actions that attempted to limit the oppressors’ power by thwarting the Nazis’ policies and intentions, as well as strategies to reduce suffering and make survival possible.

Touring the Nazi Past

Much of Europe felt the imprint of the Nazi jackboot between 1933 and 1945. Focusing on different locations in Germany and Poland, Dr. Semmens traces the rise and fall of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. From the Reichstag building in Berlin to the Fuehrer's retreat in the Bavarian Alps, from the Krakow ghetto to the Auschwitz death camp, we will learn about key moments in the history of German fascism which left traces on the landscape still visible to travelers today.

[Dr. Georgia Sitara](#)

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Histories of race/racism/ antisemitism in Canada

Antiracism: theories and practice

Colonialism and decolonization: Canadian history of colonialism and approaches for decolonization

Ethnicity: histories of an ethnic group of your choice in Canada

Gender: the role of gender in society

Sexuality: histories of sexuality; practices; pleasure and power; naming; regulation; histories of courtship and dating

Histories of children and youth / age: the role of children and youth in history; children and youth in activism; when did children become students?

Animals, animal rights: the possibilities and problems of the animal rights movement

Intersectionality: what is it and why is it useful?

Buffalo: why and how did the buffalo disappear?

Social justice: I am open to discussing everything from the importance of story telling for social justice to prison abolition.

Jane Austen: feminism in Austen's novels; Austen as feminist heterosexual romance

Film adaptations of 19th century women's novels: what they teach us about women's lives, past and present; visions of gender justice in these novels

Feminism and romantic comedies: what does feminism have to do with romantic comedies?

Drink: A Boozy History of Canada

[Dr. Jordan Stanger-Ross](#)

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Challenging Exile: Japanese Canadians and the Wartime Constitution

In September 1945, after the close of the Second World War, the Canadian government threatened over 10,000 people of Japanese descent with exile to Japan, a country that many of them had never visited. This talk explores how this attempted mass banishment came about, how Japanese Canadians fought exile, and why this story still matters today.

[Dr. Elizabeth Vibert](#)

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Food Sovereignty and Sustainability

Food Sovereignty and Sustainability discusses these concepts in global perspective, and then uses food production activities in the Global South as examples of how local, small-scale food production can change lives and communities.

“Global Food Justice? Decolonizing the Paths Forward”

This presentation examines the concept of food justice in transnational contexts and in an era of deepening inequalities and climate crisis. The talk considers ways forward that attend to colonial pasts, decolonial futures, and the central roles of women in food production and provisioning.

How “Race” is Made Historically

This illustrated talk explores the contested concept of ‘race’ and its use across the British empire and into the present day, particularly in North American contexts.

The Story of an African Women's Farm

This highly illustrated talk tells the story of an inspiring farm set up during a [drought and](#) food crisis in the early 1990s. Thirty years later, this sustainable farming project continues to contribute to women’s lives, families, and community in South Africa.

Micro-managing: Household Economies in the Global South

‘Micro-managing’ examines how ‘the poorest of the poor’ carefully manage and [grow](#) scarce resources and diversify activities to support themselves and their families. Households in rural South Africa serve as case studies.

The Thinking Garden: A Film About an Inspiring South African Women's Farm

The Thinking Garden. Writer-producer E. Vibert presents this award-winning, inspiring documentary about a South African women's cooperative farm, 35 minutes [2017]. Note: the film is in the xiTsonga language with English subtitles.

Why is Africa Poor and Food-insecure (and is it)?

This highly illustrated talk looks at historical and contemporary factors shaping the ongoing challenges of sub-Saharan Africa, queries standard narratives, and considers some little-discussed success stories.

Four Stories About Food

This highly illustrated presentation explores community initiatives for food security in four challenging contexts: Indigenous Canada, Indigenous Colombia, refugee communities in Jordan, and urban and rural South Africa.

Climate Change, Food Insecurity, and Farmers' Action in the Global South

This highly illustrated presentation looks at the broad consequences of climate change for food systems, and the ways farmers and communities in the Global South— particularly Southern Africa—are adapting and responding to challenges they did not create.