



University  
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in  
Religion and Society

# SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Peter Evans



## Imitation and Scapegoat in Coast Salish Myth

Myths are founding stories that ground culture and the sacred. One widely discussed theory of this process put forward by anthropologist René Girard understands myth as the story of an original act of violence by a society upon a single victim, the scapegoat. This talk will explore and problematize Girard's theory, drawing on Coast Salish and other Indigenous approaches to the origin and meaning of myth.

**Peter Evans** earned his PhD at the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge, studying Inuit–Moravian encounters in Northern Labrador. He co-founded Trailmark Systems and has worked with Indigenous communities for 20 years on ethnohistorical projects, land use, cultural heritage, and digital archives.

Jan 29, 2026  
5:00–6:00pm  
CLE B017

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