Evidence & Belief in the Age of Mass Information

7 PM, THURSDAYS
NOVEMBER 7-28

CENTRAL LIBRARY
251 Dundas Street
Stevenson & Hunt Room
2 hours free validated parking
in Citi Plaza during Library hours
FREE
No registration required.

NOVEMBER 7

THE MISINFORMATION AGE

CAILIN O'CONNOR (UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE)
In an age where information is at our fingertips, why do we believe so many false things? In this talk, I look at the history of science, and use simple models of human interaction, to see why one of our greatest strengths as humans – social learning – can lead us wrong.

NOVEMBER 14

THE DEATH OF EXPERTISE?

MAYA GOLDENBERG (UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH)
Many complain that nobody listens to experts anymore—about climate change, vaccines, GMOs, and more—and populist anti-intellectualism threatens democracy, because accurate knowledge should direct governance. Perhaps this is a crisis of trust—expertise is being recalibrated. Examining science in relation to society invites new ways of addressing this trend.

NOVEMBER 21

"ALL IN YOUR HEAD":
MEDICINE'S WORRISOME STRUGGLE WITH SUBJECTIVE EVIDENCE

DIANE O'LEARY (ROTMAN INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY)
Up to half of outpatients suffer from an illness unexplained by objective medical tests. Practice guidelines suggest these symptoms have psychological causes, but should medicine reject evidence of disease when it's purely subjective? This presentation will clarify problems with the science and safety of "all in your head".

NOVEMBER 28

IS THE WORLD AS IT SEEMS?

ANGELA MENDELOVICI (WESTERN UNIVERSITY)
Our experiences present us with a world of colours, shapes, and everyday objects like tables and chairs. But is the world really as it seems? No—our representational capacities evolved to be useful, not accurate, and sometimes the most useful representation of the world is one that systematically misrepresents it.

Western Arts&Humanities

Rotman Institute of Philosophy
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This series has been prepared in partnership with the Rotman Institute of Philosophy and the Western University Philosophy Department