



Liberal Education Conference 2017

*The Idea of the
University & the State
of Liberal Education in
the 21st Century*

Mount Royal University



Medicine Hat College

Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Treaty 7 Territory



PROGRAM



Conference Schedule

Day 1: April 27, 2017

8:00 - 8:50 Registration

8:50 - 9:00 Territorial Acknowledgement by **Mr. Dion Simon**, Medicine Trail Program, Mount Royal University. *Introduced by Dr. Sean Carleton, Mount Royal University*

9:00 - 9:10 Welcome Address, **Dr. Karim Dharamsi**, Chair of General Education, Mount Royal University

9:15 - 10:00 First Plenary Session: *Liberal Education In Response to the Challenges of Our Time* - **Dr. Ronald Peter Glasberg**, The University of Calgary - Abstract No. 6

Chair: Dr. Karim Dharamsi, Mount Royal University

10:15 - 11:00 Second Plenary Session: *Resisting the Ivory Tower: Liberal Education and Social Change* - **Dr. Roberta Lexier**, Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 10

Chair: Dr. Sean Carleton, Mount Royal University

11:15 - 12:00 Third Plenary Session: *Engaging "Wicked Problems" with Design Thinking: A Pedagogical Strategy for the Liberal Arts in the 21st Century* - **Dr. Sharon Allan**, Independent Scholar, and **Deborah Forbes**, Medicine Hat College - Abstract No. 2

Chair: Dr. Charles Hepler, Department of Mathematics and Computing



12:00 - 1:00 Lunch and Address by Minister Marlin Schmidt, Alberta Minister of Advanced Education. *Introduced by Dr. Roberta Lexier, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Communities and Societies, Department of General Education, Mount Royal University*

1:45 - 2:30 Fourth Plenary Session: *Visualizing Knowledge: The Pivotal Role of Visualizing Abstract Thinking*, **Dr. Karim Youssef**, Mount Royal University and **Mr. Magid W.F. Youssef**, Architect and Independent Researcher - Abstract No. 20

Chair: Dr. Kenna Olsen, Mount Royal University

2:45 - 3:30 Fifth Plenary Session: *Why the World Needs More Philosophers: Liberal Education and Public Intellectuals*, **Dr. Kathryn Shailer**, Alberta College of Art+Design - Abstract No. 15

Chair: Dr. Glen Ryland, Mount Royal University

3:45 - 4:30 Sixth Plenary Session: *Using Online Discussion to Strengthen Students' Engagement in General Education* - **Dr. Semiyu Aderibigbe**, Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 1

Chair: Prof. Lorelei Boschman, Medicine Hat College

4:30 - 6:00 Break

6:00 - 7:30 Dinner - Address at 7:00 - 7:15 by **Dr. Michael Quinn**, Associate Vice President Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement, Mount Royal University - *Introduced by Dr. David Ohreen, Mount Royal University*

Conference Schedule

Day 2: April 28, 2017

7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast (& Registration)

8:15 -9:00 Seventh Plenary Session: *Teaching Statistics From a Liberal Arts Perspective* - **Ms. Collette Lemieux and Prof. Brad Quiring**, Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 9

Chair: *Dr. Eric Roettger, Mount Royal University*

9:15 - 10:00 Eighth Plenary Session: "*A Socratic Seminar Writ Large*": *The Peace Corps and Its Vision for the Liberal Arts in the 1960s* - **Mr. David Busch**, Carnegie Mellon University - Abstract No. 3

Chair: *Michael Sauve, Mount Royal University*

10:15 - 11:00 Ninth Plenary Session: *Is There Anything Liberating About the Liberal Arts? A Personal and Conservative Defense of the Liberal Arts and Sciences University* - **Dr. James Cunningham**, Independent Scholar, Quick Thinking Tutoring - Abstract No. 4

Chair: *Karim Dharamsi, Mount Royal University*

11:15 - 12:00 Tenth Plenary Session: *In Defense of a Utilitarian University Education* - **Dr. Allison Dube**, Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 5

Chair: *Dr. Aydan Salman-Dilgimen, Mount Royal University*

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch and Keynote Address, "*The Inclusive Liberal Arts*" by **Dr. Katherine Aidala**, Mount Holyoke College. Introduction and moderated by, **Dr. Manuel Diaz-Avila**, Associate Professor of Physics, Department of Chemistry and Physics, Mount Royal University



1:45 - 2:00 President of Mount Royal University, **Dr. David Docherty** - Introduction by **Dr. Paul Varella-Connors**, Associate Dean, Bissett School of Business

2:15 - 3:00 Eleventh Plenary Session: *Nihil Obstat: The University, Visual Arts and Censorship in Liberal Democracies* - **Prof. Clint Lawrence**, Medicine Hat College - Abstract No. 8

Chair: *Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College*

3:15 - 4:00 Twelfth Plenary Session: *The Civic Benefits of the Trivium* - **Dr. Jeff Shires**, Purdue University - Abstract No. 16

Chair: *Dr. James Cunningham, Quick Thinking Tutoring, Independent Scholar*

4:15 - 5:00 Thirteenth Plenary Session: *From Moby-Dick to McDonald's: Americanism, Anti-Americanism, and American Studies* - **Dr. Mario Rewers**, Vanderbilt University - Abstract No. 13

Chair: *Dr. Karim Youssef, Mount Royal University*

5:00 - 6:00 Break

6:00 - 7:30 Dinner - Address at 7:00 - 7:15 by **Dr. Terry Chapman**, Dean, Arts, Education & Business, Medicine Hat College - Introduction by *Dr. Karim Dharamsi, Mount Royal University*



Conference Schedule

Day 3: April 29, 2017

7:00 - 8:00 Breakfast (& Registration)

8:15 - 9:00 Fourteenth Plenary Session: *Liberal Education and Democracy* - **Dr. Navneet Kumar**,
Medicine Hat College - Abstract No. 7

Chair: Dr. Terry Chapman, Medicine Hat College

9:15 - 10:00 Fifteenth Plenary Session: *The Evolution of Liberal Education at the University of
Lethbridge* - **Dr. Shelly L. Wismath, Dr. Jan Newberry, Heather Mirau**, University of
Lethbridge - Abstract No. 18

Chair: Dr. Guy Obrecht, Mount Royal University

10:15 - 11:00 Sixteenth Plenary Session: *Social Epistemology in the Movie Limitless (2011): A
Contemporary Case Study of Knowledge Construction* - **Dr. Hektor K.T. Yan**, City University of
Hong Kong - Abstract No. 19

Chair: Dr. Roberta Lexier, Mount Royal University

11:15 - 12:00 Seventeenth Plenary Session: *The Point and Place of Music in Liberal Education at the
21st Century University* - **Dr. Guy Obrecht**, Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 11

Chair: Prof. Jim Brenan, Mount Royal University

12:00 - 1:30 Lunch and Keynote Address, "Face to Face: Gender Equality and Religious
Freedom in a Multicultural Society" by **Prof. Natasha Bakht**, Faculty of Law, The
University of Ottawa, Introduced by **Dr. Navneet Kumar**, Coordinator of General Education,
Medicine Hat College

1:45 - 2:00, **Dr. Michael Gillespie, Vice-President Academic, Medicine Hat College** -

Introduction by Dr. Terry Chapman, Dean, Arts, Education and Business, Medicine Hat College

2:15 - 3:00 Eighteenth Plenary Session: *Is Critical Thinking a Part of Liberal Education?* -

Dr. Gary Thompson, Saginaw Valley State University - Abstract No. 17

Chair: Dr. Melanie Ratburn, Mount Royal University

3:15 - 4:00 Eighteenth Plenary Session: *Conceptualizing Liberal Education While Building
Competencies and Capacities with First-Year Students* - **Dr. Glen Ryland and Mr. Michael Sauvé**,
Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 14

Chair: Dr. Allison Dube, Mount Royal University

4:15 - 5:00 Nineteenth Plenary Session: *Peer Influence on the Moral Reasoning of Business Students:
Why Liberal Education Matters* - **Dr. David Ohreen**, Mount Royal University - Abstract No. 12

Chair: Angela Waldie, Mount Royal University

5:05 - 5:20 Closing Remarks, **Dr. Jim Zimmer, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President of
Teaching and Learning, Mount Royal University** - *Introduced by Dr. David Clemis, Mount Royal
University*





Conference Organization Committee

Dr. Karim Dharamsi, Chair, General Education, Mount Royal University (kdharamsi@mtroyal.ca)

Ms. Brenda Quantz, Administrative Assistant, General Education, Mount Royal University (bquantz@mtroyal.ca)

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Dr. David Clemis, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities, Mount Royal University (dcleemis@mtroyal.ca)

Dr. Navneet Kumar, General Education Coordinator, Medicine Hat College (nkumar@mhc.ab.ca)

Dr. Kenna Olsen, Associate Professor, Department of English, Mount Royal University (kolsen@mtroyal.ca)

Keynote Presenters

Dr. Katherine Aidala

Chair and Associate Professor of Physics, Chair of Engineering

Mount Holyoke College (kaidala@mtholyoke.edu)

Prof. Natasha Bakht

Associate Professor of Law

University of Ottawa (nbakht@uottawa.ca)

Our special thanks to Mount Royal University's President, Dr. David Docherty, Dr. Michael Quinn, Associate Vice President Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement, Mount Royal University, Dr. Terry Chapman, Dean, Arts, Education and Business, Medicine Hat College and Dr. Jim Zimmer, Vice Provost and Associate Vice President of Teaching and Learning, Mount Royal University. Their support has made this conference possible.

IDEAS:

PRESENTERS

Semiyu Aderibigbe, Mount Royal University
Sharon Allan, Independent Scholar
David Busch, Carnegie Mellon University
James Cunningham, Independent Scholar, Quick Thinking Tutoring
Allison Dube, Mount Royal University
Deborah Forbes, Medicine Hat College
Ronald Peter Glasberg, University of Calgary
Navneet Kumar, Medicine Hat College
Clint Lawrence, Medicine Hat College
Collette Lemieux, Mount Royal University
Brad Quiring, Mount Royal University
Roberta Lexier, Mount Royal University
Heather Mirau, University of Lethbridge
Jan Newberry, University of Lethbridge
Guy Obrecht, Mount Royal University
David Ohreen, Mount Royal University
Mario Rewers, Vanderbilt University
Glen Ryland, Mount Royal University
Kathryn Shailer, Alberta College of Art+Design
Jeff Shires, Purdue University
Shelly L. Wismath, University of Lethbridge
Michael Sauvé, Mount Royal University
Gary Thompson, Saginaw Valley State University
Hektor K. T. Yan, City University of Hong Kong
Karim Youssef, Mount Royal University
Magid W. F. Youssef, Independent Scholar, Architect

KEYNOTES

Minister of Advanced Education, Marlin Schmidt
Katherine Aidala, Mount Holyoke College
Natasha Bakht, University of Ottawa



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