



GREEN COLLEGE INTERDISCIPLINARY SERIES
WORLDS OF WONDER
PEOPLE MAKING PLACES SACRED

Human beings around the world acknowledge and create spaces of wonder. Their aspirations and motivations are diverse. Some set those places apart as distinctive sacred space, while others do not recognize a division between the religious and secular at all, envisioning instead the entire cosmos as infused by a network of breathtaking power. With ever-moving, dynamic processes of creation, human imagination shapes and is formed by practices that generate sanctified worlds through interaction with a range of geographies – biological, architectural, terrestrial, and cosmic. Come on an inter-disciplinary journey led by specialists in First Nations studies, archaeology, music, ecology, architecture, literature and anthropology to explore astonishingly varied terrains of the human imagination.

ALL TALKS ARE AT GREEN COLLEGE IN THE COACH HOUSE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITHOUT CHARGE

TERM I

SUNRISE OVER THE SALISH SEA: SACRED SPACE AND ANCESTRAL TIME IN THE STÓ:LŌ WORLD

Naxaxalhts'i, Albert (Sonny) McHalsie, Stó:lō Research and Resource Management Centre for Stó:lō Nation; **Michael Blake**, Anthropology, UBC
Wednesday, September 13, 2017, 5:00 pm, with reception to follow

This talk is co-sponsored by the Green College Series, "Living with the Dead"

For time immemorial, the Stó:lō people have understood the enduring connection between time, space, and the material/spiritual realms. Land, water, the heavens, and all living things are interconnected with names, histories and spirit. This talk explores and describes how this ancestral knowledge can be traced over thousands of years—connecting buildings, monuments and locations still visible on the landscape with practices, place names and histories that are taught to the Stó:lō youth of today. The speakers discuss how Stó:lō archaeological and historical research carried out during the past thirty years has helped bring some of these connections to light and how Stó:lō communities are working to protect their tangible and intangible heritage under constant threat of erosion by the settler culture and practices.

UNISON: INNER SPACE AND THE COLLECTIVE BODY IN GREGORIAN CHANT

Paula Pryce, Anthropology, UBC; with the Choir of Christ Church Cathedral, dir. **Rupert Lang**
Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 5:00 pm

This talk is co-sponsored by the Green College Series, "Transforming Sounds"

"Something happens in the body." These were the words of a monk who struggled to articulate how Gregorian chant has a visceral power to transform people. For centuries, monastic practitioners of

silence and formalized, intentional sound have cultivated a capacity to expand the sensorial boundaries of the individual self to encompass others, both human and divine. With the musical assistance of the accomplished choir of Christ Church Cathedral under the direction of Rupert Lang, this talk will draw from five years of anthropological fieldwork in the silent environments of monasteries and non-monastic retreat houses to explore the role of chant, breath, and synchronous movement in manifesting an experiential collective body that transcends the limits of self and other in a state called "unitive being."

DWELLING IN THE WILDERNESS: LANDSCAPE, PLACE AND THE SACRED AMONG CATHOLIC MONKS OF THE AMERICAN WEST

Jason Brown, Institute for Resources, Environment and Sustainability, UBC

Wednesday, November 8, 2017, 5:00 pm

A monk's purpose is to seek God, and monks in the Roman Catholic tradition are specifically called to seek God *in place*. This is why twelfth-century Trappist monk Stephen Harding called monks *lovers of the place*. By devoting their lives to a single community often located in remote and secluded places, monks find God in the eccentricities of fellow monastics, and in the particularities of the created order. To 'dwell in the wilderness' might seem like a paradox to contemporary ears, but for the monk whose sole purpose is to seek the paradise of God in the wilderness of the human heart, it is a way of life.

Those attending talks at Green College are warmly invited to come to dinner.

For information on making dinner reservations, see www.greencollege.ubc.ca/how-attend-dinner