

January 4, 2019

## **TEDxMacEwanU 2019: explores truth in many forms**

Edmonton – *Truth Told*, MacEwan University's second TEDx event, will explore the concept of truth in its many forms, and the university's role in seeking it. The event will take place on Wednesday, January 23 from 6 to 9 p.m., in the Betty Andrews Recital Hall, Allard Hall, MacEwan University.

The TEDx program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals to spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences. "This year's TEDx theme is 'Truth Told' where presenters will be exploring the concept of truth in its many forms and challenging their own perceptions of what the pursuit of truth really means," said Dr. Cynthia Zutter, associate vice president, Research and Teaching. "While we acknowledge that truth takes on many names and meanings, as a university community, we embrace our truth-related responsibilities."

### **TEDxMacEwanU speakers include:**

Master of Ceremonies: Leigh Rivenbark is a professor, director, writer and artistic producer. For the past 25 years, he has worked in theatres throughout North America, including the National Arts Centre, the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Citadel Theatre and Neptune Theatre.

### **Faculty speakers**

Dr. Katie Biittner is an assistant professor in MacEwan's Department of Anthropology, Economics and Political Science. As an archaeologist, she has participated in excavation in locations as diverse as Tanzania, where she is investigating our origins as modern humans, and Edmonton's Mill Creek Ravine, examining the city's early industrial days.

Neill Fitzpatrick spent much of his career as a journalist with CBC News and Global News before coming to MacEwan. His research focuses on media manipulation and "fake news" in the post-truth/Trump era. As an assistant professor in the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications, Neill designs and teaches courses in journalism, media relations and digital communications.

Dr. Rodney Schmaltz is an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at MacEwan University. His research explores why people fall prey to pseudoscientific claims, and tests strategies to promote and teach scientific skepticism.

Petra Schulz lost her 25-year-old son, Danny, to accidental fentanyl poisoning in 2014, leading her to co-found Moms Stop the Harm, a national network of Canadian families who have lost a loved one to substance use. Through sharing Danny's story, Petra, a special needs educational assistant in the Faculty of Health and Community Studies, has become an advocate for drug policy reform aimed at reducing the harm associated with substance use.

Canadian jazz musicians Chandelle Rimmer and Tom Van Seters are both well versed in the Canadian jazz scene, having shared the stage with numerous distinguished musicians over the past 25 years. Both Tom and Chandelle are faculty members in MacEwan's Department of Music, and recently released their first collaborative project, *Stillness Falls*, through the university's record label, Bent River Records.

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## **Student speakers**

Jason Garcia is a queer non-binary, latinx advocate for survivor-centred response to sexual violence in the city of Edmonton. As the volunteer manager for the Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE), they manage the most passionate group of volunteers who are dedicated to providing front-line support and empowerment to those impacted by sexual violence.

Keestin O'Dell is a student engagement advisor at kihêw waciston, MacEwan University's Indigenous Centre. In this role, he travels to First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities across Western Canada to discuss the university experience, offer information on MacEwan's programs and build relationships with students and organizations.

## **About TEDx, x = independently organized event**

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. At a TEDx event, TEDTalks video and live speakers combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. These local, self-organized events are branded TEDx, where x = independently organized TED event. The TED Conference provides general guidance for the TEDx program, but individual TEDx events are self-organized. (Subject to certain rules and regulations.)

## **About TED**

TED is a non-profit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or fewer) delivered by today's leading thinkers and doers. Many of these talks are given at TED's annual conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, and made available, free, on TED.com. TED speakers have included Bill Gates, Jane Goodall, Elizabeth Gilbert, Sir Richard Branson, Monica Lewinsky, Phillippe Starck, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Sal Khan and Daniel Kahneman.

TED's open and free initiatives for spreading ideas includes TED.com, where new TED Talk videos are posted daily; the Open Translation Project, which provides subtitles and interactive transcripts as well as translations from thousands of volunteers worldwide; the educational initiative. TED-Ed; the annual million-dollar TED prize, which funds exceptional individuals with a "wish" or idea, to create change in the world; TEDx, which provides licenses to thousands of individuals and groups who host local, self-organized TED-style events around the world; and the TED Fellows programs, which selects innovators from around the globe to amplify the impact of their remarkable projects and activities.

For ticket information, please go to [MacEwan.ca/Tedx](https://macewan.ca/tedx)

*Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.*

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