

Vancouver Island University and Vancouver Island Regional Library proudly present:

# THE PHILOSOPHERS' CAFÉ

Come join us at the Philosophers' Café – a public forum for debate. Each Café is on a different topic, briefly introduced by a knowledgeable presenter and opened to the floor for general discussion. Pose questions, present arguments, hear opposing viewpoints, and join in on the fun as we discuss tricky issues, theories, concepts and more!

## FALL LINEUP (2019)

### THE PROBLEM OF FREE WILL

People make many decisions in their lives – good or bad, moral or immoral – and believe they make them freely. But how is free will possible, if the human mind is a physical thing, subject to the laws of nature and rules of cause and effect? Is the mind very different from how we've construed it, or is free choice, divorced from material events, a mere illusion?

Michael Robert Caditz finished his philosophy degree at VIU in 2018, graduating with distinction and honours. He recently graduated with distinction from the New York Institute of Technology with an MS in Energy Management.

**Wednesday, Oct. 16th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

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### IS THERE HOPE FOR HUMANITY?

Since the beginning of the Holocene, when humans killed off the woolly mammoth, mastodon and Cro-Magnon, they have set the course for an ecological nightmare. Human nature is neither tabula rasa nor “noble savage” as many in the social sciences endorse. The history of humankind is replete with patriarchy, forced servitude, slavery, pogroms, genocides, and warfare – with religions and political ideologies rationalizing these cruelties. Against this bleak prognosis, is there hope for humankind?

John Anderson is an Honourary Research Associate (Criminology) at Vancouver Island University. His main areas of interest are corporate and state crime. He enjoys reading, hiking, mountain-biking, and contemplating the future of humanity.

**Wednesday, Nov. 27th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm**

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*All Cafés are held free of charge at the Nanaimo Harbourfront Library (90 Commercial Street). After 5:00 pm, free parking is available at the Bastion Parkade (Skinner and Bastion).*

