

Contemporary Literature of Atlantic Canada

Tourist advertisements, brochures, and cultural representations often depict Atlantic Canada as an idyllic, laid-back, and welcoming tourist destination. Yet the contemporary literature of the region pushes back on this, suggesting that, like every other place in the world, Atlantic Canada is impacted by globalization, tensions around race, class, and gender, and profound cultural shifts. Join Dr. Peter Thompson in this lecture series to look at how contemporary Atlantic Canadian literature tries to come to terms with these questions.

Session 1: This lecture provides the historical background and will examine Atlantic Canada's place in Confederation.

Session 2: Looking at authors such as LM Montgomery, Alistair MacLeod, and others, this lecture will identify important themes in Atlantic Canadian literature, including landscape, the home place, and tradition.

Session 3: This lecture examines the way in which contemporary authors such as Lynn Coady satirize or trouble stereotypes about Atlantic Canada.

Session 4: This lecture examines the way in which contemporary Indigenous authors, including Rebecca Thomas and Peter J. Clair make us rethink ideas about ownership over the land and attachment to place.

Session 5: This lecture will pick up on themes from the previous session, examining the experience of the African Nova Scotian community through literature.

Session 6: This lecture will focus on contemporary Newfoundland writing.

Peter Thompson grew up in Stellarton, Nova Scotia. His research focuses primarily on the contemporary literature and popular culture of Atlantic Canada and looks specifically at representations of deindustrialization in the region. Peter published a book, *Nights Below Foord Street: Literature and Popular Culture in Postindustrial Nova Scotia* with McGill-Queen's University Press in 2020. His work has appeared in *Studies in Canadian Literature*, *English Studies in Canada*, *Acadiensis*, and *Journal of New Brunswick Studies*. He has won numerous teaching awards at Carleton University, including a Provost's Fellowship in Teaching for sustained excellence in teaching in 2015.