



Fostering Collegial Conversations Since 1992

PERLMAN
CENTER FOR
LEARNING
& TEACHING

Cross-Pollination: Growing Beyond Disciplinary Borders
SPRING 2026

Let's welcome spring by gathering to explore and celebrate what flourishes when experiences, cultures, and disciplines meet, mix, and roam.

General Audience Sessions take place in Weitz 236 and are open to all. Targeted Audience Lunches are discussion-based and for members of the community who have a vested interest in the topic. Lunch is served at 11:45 am.

Attendees must register for targeted audience sessions online at go.carleton.edu/ltc.

For more information, contact Mary Drew at mdrew@carleton.edu

APR 21

FIRST-GENERATION STUDENT PERSPECTIVES

Gain insights into the first-generation experience at Carleton. Join us for a student panel sharing perspectives on classroom belonging, academic advising, and bridging the gap between their family expectations and their experiences.

Melissa Eblen-Zayas, Professor of Physics

Rocio Avila '26, Esme Garcia-Ramirez '27, Juan Garcia Reyes '26, and Katelyn Harder '26

[Students are welcome to attend.](#)

APR 28

DEVELOPMENT OF AI CHATBOT SIMULATIONS IN PSYC 254: PSYCHOPATHOLOGY

This session presents a collaboration to create an AI chatbot that simulates patients with panic disorder. Learn how the chatbot was designed, tested, and refined for classroom use—including what worked, what didn't, and the refinements required to make the chatbot behave more consistently.

Ken Abrams, Professor of Psychology

Don Vosburg, Academic Technologist of Learning Innovation

[Students are welcome to attend.](#)

MAY 12

LANGUAGE, LITERATURE, AND PLAGUE: TEACHING WITH DATA AND MAPS IN THE HUMANITIES

How can we help students engage substantively with different forms of evidence in our disciplines? When do efforts to make our classes more interdisciplinary add to student learning, and when do they become unwieldy? Two Humanities faculty will share how they incorporate data, statistics, and maps from the 16th century to today, to help students in their courses consider questions of culture, public health, and politics. Students from these courses will share their experiences.

Susannah Ottaway, Laird Bell Professor of History

Seth Peabody, Assistant Professor of German

Lin Su Winton, Director of the Quantitative Resource Center

[Students are welcome to attend.](#)

MAY 19

DEI IDEAS THAT WORK: LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Members of various academic departments will each present an idea that's working in their department or program to support diversity and inclusion.

Ross Elfline, Professor of Art History

Sandra Rousseau, Associate Professor of French

Amy Csizmar-Dalal, Professor of Computer Science

MurphyKate Montee, Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Sarah Meerts, Professor of Neuroscience and Psychology

Yaron Klein, Associate Professor of Arabic

[Students are welcome to attend.](#)

MAY 26

THE CARLETON STUDENT ORGANIC FARM: OPPORTUNITIES IN PLACE-BASED EDUCATION

In this session, we will explore the farm as a site for place-based education and community connection, offering students ways to engage directly with the food, culture, and environment and each other. We invite you to join us and learn and share ideas.

Sarah Fortner, Director of Sustainability

Amanda Sames, Farm Manager

Sarah Kennedy, Assistant Professor of Archeology and Latin American Studies

Dan Maxbauer, Assistant Professor of Geology

Lin Su Winton, Director of the Quantitative Resource Center

JUN 2

CONNECTING CULTURES THROUGH MUSIC

Exploring cross-cultural composition by bringing Chinese instruments together with Western wind ensembles, this session examines creative challenges and teaching insights, highlighting exchange, collaboration, and how music fosters connections across cultures.

Gao Hong, Director of the Chinese Music Ensemble and Senior Lecturer in Chinese Musical Instruments

Rose Tyler, Visiting Director of the Carleton Symphony Band

[Students are welcome to attend.](#)

APR 7

MORE ADVENTURES IN TEACHING ACROSS DISCIPLINARY DIVIDE

Interdisciplinary teaching at Carleton takes many forms. This panel explores a team-taught course that merges literary/arts analysis with arts practice and two project-based art exhibits. The projects represent some unique disciplinary pairings: English and Theater, Religion and Mathematics, and Biology and Studio Art.

Pierre Hecker, Associate Professor of English and **Andrew Carlson**, Associate Professor of Theater;

Kambiz GhaneaBassiri, Professor of Religion and **MurphyKate Montee**, Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor of Mathematics

Daniel Hernández, Professor of Biology and **Eleanor Jensen**, Lecturer in Art

[Students are welcome to attend.](#)

APR 14

 **TARGETED AUDIENCE LUNCH**
AGH Meeting Room | Registration Required

WHAT STUDENTS THINK ABOUT AI AND LEARNING

How well do students understand their own learning? In this session, we'll discuss the results from a pilot project to help A&I students make conscious decisions about their learning, their academic work, and the ways AI might fit into them.

George Cusack, Director of AI Academic Initiatives, Director of Writing Across the Curriculum, Senior Lecturer in English

SPRING READING GROUPS

The AI Con

by *Emily M. Bender and Alex Hanna*

In our ongoing explorations of generative AI in particular, we tend to focus on what the technologies can and cannot do. This book focuses on how the humans behind the technology manipulate the narratives around AI and how humans already are affected by these technologies. The book adds a dimension to our critical understanding of these technologies, the companies behind them, and how this already affects/will affect us.

Mon, Apr 13 and May 11 | 3:30-4:30pm | LTC Library

CONVENER: **Wiebke Kuhn**, Director of Academic Technology

Close Reading for the Twenty-First Century

by *Dan Sinykin and Johanna Winant, editors*

With the rise of AI and an increasing concern about how much young people today are or are not reading, whether they've been taught full novels or just excerpts, and more, this volume offers compelling evidence for the value that results from the slowed-down work of falling into a text's rhythms.

Thurs, Apr 9, May 7 and May 21 | 3:30-4:30pm | LTC Library

CONVENERS: **Emily Coccia**, Robert A. Oden Jr. Postdoctoral Fellow for Innovation in the Liberal Arts and English; **Gwen Kirby**, Assistant Professor of English

The Philosophy of Translation

by *Damion Searls*

Damion Searls has translated dozens of books from German, Norwegian, French, and Dutch, including the work of eight Nobel laureates. This highly readable book will be of interest to anyone who loves languages, literature, and the written word. This book group will meet once, with the author present.

Tues, May 12 | 5:00pm | LTC Library

CONVENER: **Laura Goering**, William H. Laird Professor of Russian and the Liberal Arts

