

## Welcome to the Jackman Humanities Institute

The Humanities Institute will advance scholarship at the University of Toronto by creating new networks — both virtual and physical — for interaction among humanities scholars regardless of their discipline.

By offering new ways for students and faculty from U of T's three campuses to learn from each other, as well as from visiting scholars, the Humanities Institute will develop new interdisciplinary ways to understand human experience.

The Institute will serve as a community of research and study. It will offer a portal to the humanities at U of T. It will coordinate ongoing humanities activities and host initiatives such as weekly seminars and international conferences.

The Institute's activities will provide both undergraduate and graduate students with a number of opportunities for one-on-one interaction with world-renowned humanists. Through its breadth and inclusiveness, the Institute will encourage U of T's full participation as a world leader in the humanities.

Further, the Humanities Institute's focus on collaborative scholarship across academic boundaries will promote further interaction among our scholars, thus providing further impetus for innovative teaching and research projects.

## Why do the humanities matter?

The humanities shape the way we engage our world as citizens. By examining the cultural, historical, philosophical, linguistic and artistic dimensions of human experience, the humanities help us to understand the diversity and complexity of our world. As distances shrink and global competition mounts, the humanities bridge cultures engendering new relationships.

Through improved understanding of others, U of T's humanists are helping to fight racism, work for peace and promote environmental sustainability. In exploring cultures from other times and other places, they offer new perspectives on the world's most pressing problems.

- The humanities make sense of our world.
- The humanities are uniquely capable of helping our diverse and changing communities to understand each other.
- Humanities scholars address questions of suffering, human dignity and social justice

## Themes for the Jackman Humanities Institute

The advisory board has set annual themes for the Jackman Humanities Institute for the first three years of its full-scale program. Each theme will help govern the selection of the various fellows at the JHI, the public conferences, and also various seminars and workshops for the whole year.

### 2008-2009: Telling Stories

- Making sense of our world depends on the practice of narrating events. In both oral and written traditions, and ranging from the historian's monograph to the epic poem, a film or a single painting — the activity of telling stories serves as a topic for diverse kinds of scholarly inquiry. Humanities

## The Humanities After Utopia

Celebrating the launch of the Jackman Humanities Institute

### Keynote Lecture

Future of Culture, Future of Utopia

### Fredric Jameson

William A. Lane Professor of Comparative Literature and Romance Studies, Duke University  
Wednesday, December 5 • 5 pm  
Isabel Bader Theatre  
93 Charles Street West

### Conference

Thursday, December 6 • 9 am - 5 pm  
Alumni Hall, Victoria College  
91 Charles Street West

OPEN THE PUBLIC • FREE ADMISSION

research explores various modes of telling and the social, political, epistemological and ethical implications of how and why stories are told.

### **2009-2010: Pressures on the Human**

- Today humanists must contend with a fundamental question: Is the object of our scholarship — humanity — still a valid category? This question arises from pressures that challenge the distinctions that make us human beings. Some of these pressures arise from science, medicine, and technology: how are we to understand the distinction of being human when our physical activities can be recognized as part of animal biology, when our physical make-up is governed by the biochemistry of DNA, when our mental capacities are interwoven with those of computers and artificial intelligence? Can progress in medicine and technology replace the various functions that have historically and theoretically made the human distinct? Using various approaches to study the artistic and scholarly records of the past and present, humanities scholars explore these pressures.

### **2010-2011: Image and Spectacle**

- Human beings make worlds appear by imagining and “imaging” it; they display worlds to others in performances. This cross-cultural theme embraces the study not only of how images relate to the reality of the world, but also of how both as individuals and as societies we generate images. The spectacle of performance, which was the origin of theory in the Ancient Greek world, leads to many kinds of reflection — from performativity to epistemology, from theories of history to literary and aesthetic theory, from cultural criticism to paleography. It extends ultimately to examining the role of reflection (speculation) and criticism of images and their worlds.

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# UNIVERSITY of TORONTO


## The Humanities After Utopia - Lecture - Dec 05, 2007




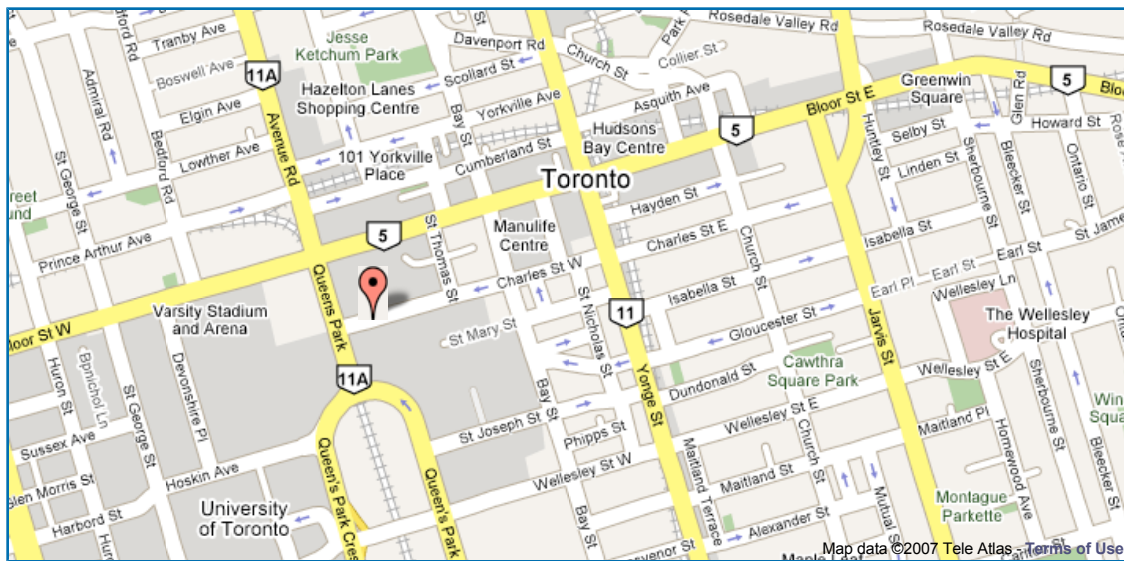
Future of Culture, Future of Utopia - a lecture by Fredric Jameson, William A Lane Professor of Comparative Literature and Romance Studies at Duke University.

Keynote Lecture to kick-off The Humanities After Utopia, a two-day event celebrating the launch of the Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto. Full details are available at [www.humanities.utoronto.ca](http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca).


 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.


 [www.humanities.utoronto.ca](http://www.humanities.utoronto.ca)

 **On Campus : St. George » Isabel Bader Theatre » 93 Charles Street West**




 **Sean Bettam** - 416-946-7950

 **FREE**

 **Seminars, Lectures & Colloquia**

 **Current Students**  
**Faculty & Staff**  
**Alumni/Friends**

 **The Jackman Humanities Institute at the University of Toronto**