



Dean of Arts Research Seminar

Dr. Robert Gibbs, "Ideas of the future university"

One of the things that university faculty ignore most is what lies nearest them: the university itself. To reflect on the university, however, need not be to focus on funding, provincial policy, or league rankings. Instead, we can ask questions about the goals and the task of the university. In short, we can look to the ideas of what a university should be to interpret the ones we are building and shaping. I will explore three key questions in this lecture: 1) **What is a research university?** 2) **What makes a university a whole and not a jumble of arts, science and professional?** and 3) **What forms of learning are distinctive to an urban university?** An exploration of the historical and philosophical shape of these questions will afford a revision of our ideas of our universities.

4:00 – 5:00pm December 1st, 2014
Multi-purpose room, Liu Institute

A reception will follow in the hallway.

Robert B. Gibbs, Director

Jackman Humanities Institute

Robert Gibbs is Inaugural Director of the Jackman Humanities Institute and Professor of Philosophy at the University of Toronto. His current work is located on the borderlines of Philosophy and Religion, with a comparative and historical focus on Law and Ethics. He has worked on Ethics in relation to the modern Jewish philosophical tradition and has numerous publications in this and in related fields in continental philosophy, including two books, *Correlations in Rosenzweig and Levinas* and *Why Ethics? Signs of Responsibilities*. He has taught in the Philosophy departments at the University of Toronto and St. Louis University, and in the Religion Departments at Princeton University and (affiliated) at the University of Toronto.

He has had research grants for projects on Messianic Epistemology, and the Rule of Law, and a project on Reason and Authority: Islamic and Jewish Legal Reasoning. This inter-disciplinary work has led to collaboration with various other humanities departments, as well as with the Faculty of Law. He currently is teaching and doing research on the Ideas of the University. He is President of the International Rosenzweig Society, and serves on various academic advisory boards and journal editorial boards. He is a member of the Advisory Board of CHCI (Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes), and was a member of the Humanities Initiative Steering Committee for CIFAR (Canadian Institute for Advanced Research). He is a member of the Governing Council of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).



a place of mind
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

