SFU Philosophers’ Café is your chance to discuss philosophical issues with members of your community. Join the conversations throughout Metro Vancouver.

All Cafés are free and no registration is required
You don’t need formal training or experience, just a willingness to listen and exchange ideas.

Pop-Up Cafés
Check for additional events in the Pop-Up Café listings on our website. Expect new Cafés at Surrey Libraries (Inclusivity Cafés at the Surrey Central Branch) and at SFU Burnaby Interfaith Centre.

Follow us on Facebook @philosopherscafeSFU
Sign up for our email list sfu.ca/philosopherscafe
Check our website for Pop-Up Cafés
MEET A MODERATOR

How did SFU’s Philosophers’ Café start?
At first, I developed a program called City Conversations in which experts from respective fields would give a presentation and then audience members could ask questions. I remember after one of the events I felt like there was something missing. There was something almost artificial or too controlled. I wanted more vibrancy and authenticity.

What did you hope Café participants would gain from the experience?
I felt it was multi-dimensional. There was an intellectual component as well as emotional, social, physical and at times even spiritual connections. The physical aspect was that you’re actually going out some place in your neighbourhood, meeting other people, and being nourished. You are being intellectually stimulated by taking part in a conversation where you’re learning from others on a level playing field and where you listen as much, or more, than you speak. It’s also emotional because you’re expressing yourself about something you’re passionate about. [We wanted to] empower people to express themselves and realize that they can have their opinions while still respecting others. You don’t have to take a back seat to the experts; everyone’s voice is important. Many of the conversations continued in our heads afterward. There are many Cafés where ideas or expressions have stayed with me for years.

Where do you see Philosophers’ Café in the next 20 years?
I think this type of gathering will continue to serve as some kind of corrective to technology…and to the exponential speed and amount of information we face. I trust that there will always be this human element of giving technology a rest and encouraging direct encounters. A Café conversation is an oasis in time and space, an opportunity to carve out face-to-face, genuine, human interaction.

What has been the most rewarding aspect for you?
I think facilitating conversation and establishing the vehicle for that to happen…There was a lot of trust in putting this together: trust in the other person because you wouldn’t know who was going to show up, what they were going to bring and how people were going to express themselves. And trust in the community that there’s wisdom and there are good people out there.

What has been the most rewarding aspect for you?
I think facilitating conversation and establishing the vehicle for that to happen…There was a lot of trust in putting this together: trust in the other person because you wouldn’t know who was going to show up, what they were going to bring and how people were going to express themselves. And trust in the community that there’s wisdom and there are good people out there. We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work and play on the unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples.

Learn more online:
sfu.ca/philosopherscafe
604-665-3010

November 4

How do you react to news about...?

November 8

How many of you are that...?

November 12

How do you protect yourself...?

November 15

How do you get your news? Do you pay

November 19

What are some of the challenges...?

November 23

How do you cope with...?

November 27

What topics do you discuss with...?

December 8

What do you think about...?

December 12

What are some of the things you are reading...?

December 16

What are you doing to...?

December 20

What are some of the things you are doing...?