



For immediate release — Thursday, March 20, 2025

## Loneliness, human flourishing and community at the heart of Owen G. Holmes Lecture event

University of Lethbridge political science professor, Dr. John von Heyking, will present an Owen G. Holmes Lecture titled *Loneliness, Scientific Authority, and Platonic Couches* on **Tuesday, March 25, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Sandman Signature Lethbridge Lodge**. The free event is open to the public, with appetizers and a cash bar available: no registration is required.

In this lecture, von Heyking will explore the [\*2023 United States Surgeon General Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community\*](#) to examine broader questions regarding scientific authority, liberal democracy, political bonds — including friendship — and the role of the university in promoting them. He will suggest ways fields beyond the physical sciences, including political philosophy, can supplement and round out how we think about human flourishing and community.

Dr. John von Heyking has been a faculty member at the University of Lethbridge since 2000, specializing in political philosophy. He is the author of several notable works, including *Comprehensive Judgment and Absolute Selflessness: Winston Churchill on Politics as Friendship* (2018), *The Form of Politics: Aristotle and Plato on Friendship* (2016), and *Augustine and Politics as Longing in the World* (2001). His research encompasses topics such as liberal and civic education, friendship, personhood, resistance to totalitarianism, cosmopolitanism, empire, Islamic political thought, punishment and religious liberty.

Owen G. Holmes Lectures is dedicated to addressing topics of public significance concerning the sciences and the nature and goals of the university in contemporary times.

For more information, please visit: [go.uleth.ca/owen-g-holmes-lectures](https://go.uleth.ca/owen-g-holmes-lectures)

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*Our University's Blackfoot name is Iniskim, meaning Sacred Buffalo Stone. The University is located in traditional Blackfoot Confederacy territory. We honour the Blackfoot people and their traditional ways of knowing in caring for this land, as well as all Indigenous Peoples who have helped shape and continue to strengthen our University community.*