



CECIL H. AND IDA GREEN VISITING PROFESSOR PATRICIA SMITH CHURCHLAND



LEADING NEUROSCIENTIST AND PHILOSOPHER AT UBC, JANUARY 22-29, 2012

Patricia Smith Churchland is a professor emerita of philosophy at the University of California, San Diego, and an adjunct professor at the Salk Institute. Her research focuses on the interface between neuroscience and philosophy. She explores the impact of scientific developments on our understanding of consciousness, the self, free will, ethics, and religion. She is author of the groundbreaking book, *Neurophilosophy* (MIT Press 1986), co-author with T. J. Sejnowski of *The Computational Brain* (MIT 1992), and co-author with Paul Churchland of *On The Contrary* (MIT 1998). *Brain-Wise* was published by MIT Press in 2002. Her current work focuses on morality and the social brain, and appeared in *Braintrust: What Neuroscience tells us about Morality*, published in March 2011 by Princeton

University Press. She has been president of the American Philosophical Association and of the Society for Philosophy and Psychology, and won a MacArthur Prize in 1991 and the Rossi Prize in 2008.

Additional support for Professor Churchland's visit to UBC is provided by the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies.



ALL TALKS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED. SEATING IS LIMITED.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.GREENCOLLEGE.UBC.CA OR GC.EVENTS@UBC.CA

BRAINTRUST: WHAT NEUROSCIENCE TELLS US ABOUT MORALITY

Green College Coach House, 6201 Cecil Green Park Road, UBC
5-6:30 pm, Tuesday, January 24, 2012, with reception to follow
Where do moral values come from? A new understanding arises from the evolution of the mammalian brain. Human moral behaviour, while more complex than the social behaviour of other animals, depends on a similar neural platform, but is also shaped by the human capacity to solve problems, plan for the future and develop social institutions.

WHAT IS THE ROLE FOR RULES IN SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR?

Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies, 6331 Crescent Road, UBC
10 am-12 pm, Thursday, January 26, 2012

An honoured tradition in moral philosophy depicts human moral behaviour as unrelated to social behaviour in nonhuman animals, and as relying on a uniquely human capacity to reason. Recent developments in the neuroscience of social bonding, the psychology of problem-solving, and the role of imitation in social behaviour jointly suggest instead an approach to morality that meshes with evolutionary biology.

MEET THE AUTHOR: PATRICIA CHURCHLAND DISCUSSES BRAINTRUST

Green College Coach House, 6201 Cecil Green Park Road, UBC
9 am-12 pm, Friday, January 27, 2012

This event is open to graduate students and Green College Residents only. Preregistration is required. To register contact Max.Cameron@ubc.ca before Thursday, January 26, 2012.

MORALITY AND THE BRAIN

The Vancouver Institute, Lecture Hall No. 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, 2194 Health Sciences Mall, UBC

8:15 pm, Saturday, January 28, 2012

Self-preservation is embodied in our brain's circuitry: we seek food when hungry, warmth when cold, and sex when lusty. In the evolution of the mammalian brain, circuitry for regulating one's own survival and well-being was modified. For sociality, the important result was that the ambit of me extends to include others—me-and-mine. Offspring, mates, and kin came to be embraced in the sphere of me-ness; we nurture them, fight off threats to them, keep them warm and safe.