

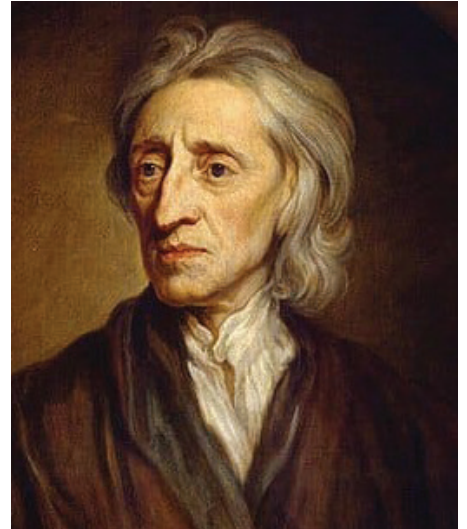
A Humanities in Community Presentation

Monday, October 13, 6:00 pm

Goodman Community Center

Who was John Locke, and why are his ideas still relevant?

This lecture will focus on the life and ideas of the prominent 17th-century British philosopher John Locke. In the first part, I'll discuss the specifics of intellectual life in 17th-century Britain, as well as Locke's rich biography, which includes a medical career, tutoring, diplomatic, and political posts. The second part will describe his most important philosophical and political ideas. I will show how Locke influenced contemporary debates about personal identity and consciousness. However, the main attention will be on his theory of natural rights and liberalism. Locke defended the right of every individual to be free, to own private property, to pursue happiness, and to have access to education. He advocated restricting the sovereign's authority in favor of an expanded role for Parliament. These ideas influenced the political structure in Great Britain, leading to the contemporary version of a limited monarchy, and also impacted the United States through the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina (drafted by Locke), a precursor to the United States Constitution.



Viacheslav Zahorodniuk was an assistant professor at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. He defended his PhD thesis "The evolution of the 'idea' concept in the British philosophy of 17-18th century" devoted to Locke's, Berkeley's, and Hume's epistemology. Zahorodniuk was working as a postdoc in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto and is now a Biruté Cipliauskaitė Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at UW-Madison. His project is on Locke's theory of early childhood development. His main interests are the history of early modern philosophy and epistemology.

Goodman Community Center, 214 Waubesa St., Bolz Room A