

The **Dante Alighieri Society of BC in Vancouver**
and **SFU's Graduate Liberal Studies**
invite you to a talk by **Dr. Emily O'Brien**



The Renaissance of Roman Ruins and Their Lessons for Today

In the 15th and 16th centuries, Rome's ancient ruins were excavated, examined, and elevated as symbols of a past to be both honoured and understood. Yet while some Roman ruins were protected and preserved, others were torn down, stripped of their marble, and reduced to rubble. The Renaissance fascination with antiquity was fraught with tensions, which surfaced most sharply when respect for the past collided with contemporary needs. From President Trump's demolition of the White House's East Wing to the rise of Vancouver's new towers, the same question persists: how can we reconcile respect for history with the demands of the modern world?

Thursday, 11 December 2025, 6.30 pm-8.00 pm (PST)

Room 1200 (Salon Event Rooms), SFU Segal Building

500 Granville Street (at Pender), Vancouver

[Reception to follow](#)



Dr. Emily O'Brien, Associate Professor in the History Department and in the Global Humanities Department at Simon Fraser University, specializes in the Italian Renaissance, focusing on 15th-century humanism, politics & the papacy. Author of *The "Commentaries" of Pope Pius II (1458-1464)* and *the Crisis of the Fifteenth-Century Papacy* (UTP), she considers Italy her intellectual home.

RSVP by email: info@dantesocietybc.ca or online:
<https://www.dantesocietybc.ca/event-details/the-renaissance-of-roman-ruins-and-their-lessons-for-today>

The Dante Alighieri Society of BC in Vancouver – www.dantesocietybca.ca



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