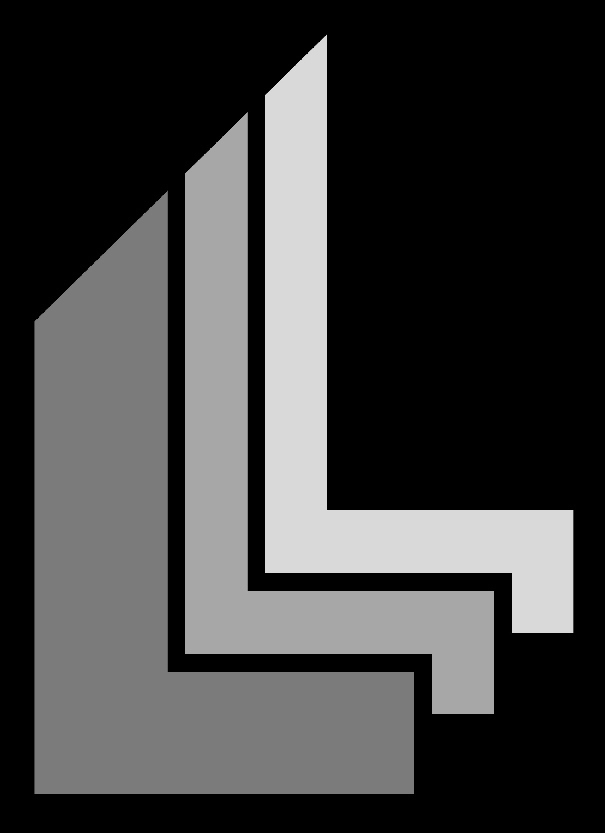
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**LifeLong Learning Program**

**Fall 2025 Programs**

**Reflections on the Psychology of Illiberal and Reactionary Politics in America**

*Date/Time:* Tuesday, September 2, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Matthew Luttig, Associate Professor of Political Science, Colgate University

*Description:* A review of recent findings in political psychology on the nature and origins of illiberal and reactionary forces in American politics, including a discussion of how broad sociopolitical changes have fostered animosity, a need for chaos, the spread of misinformation, and support for right-wing populist leaders.

**Sustainable Community Building: Draft Animal Power, Local Farms, and Forest Management**

*Date/Time:* Tuesday, September 9, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Sarah Dougherty, Greenhouse Superintendent, Colgate University

*Description:* A discussion about the historic and present-day use of draft animal power in farm and forest settings. Learn about the history of live traction, modern day applications, and how draft animals can provide an alternative and regenerative approach to working landscapes.

**Researching the Microbiome: Bacteria as Friends and Foes**

*Date/Time:* Tuesday, September 23, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Ken Belanger, Professor of Biology, Colgate University

*Description:* A discussion of the microbiome—the sum of all of the good and bad microorganisms in an environment --recent research on microbiome composition, function, and activity around, on, and inside of us and how that microbiome can be altered for better or worse.

**The Music of *Wicked* and *The Wizard of Oz***

*Date/Time:* Thursday, October 2, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Kyle Hutchinson, Visiting Assistant Professor of Music, Colgate University

*Description:* This presentation examines links between Harold Arlen’s music from “The Wizard of Oz” (1939) and Stephen Schwartz’s music for “Wicked” (2003), especially on the relationship between “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” and the ‘Unlimited’ motif in Wicked. We will learn about the ways in which this motif is developed across the show.

**The Silicon Age: Where Are We and How Did We Get Here?**

*Date/Time:* Tuesday, October 7, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Ramesh Adhikari, Assistant Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Colgate University

*Description:* The historical development of human civilization is often categorized in terms of materials that shaped that era - Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age. Currently, we live in the Silicon Age where the progress of human civilization rests on our ability to process silicon, an element abundant in sand and stones, to produce hi-tech computers and devices. We will discuss the rise of silicon and the events that led to the electronic world that we live in today, as well as the geopolitical events unfolding around us as countries tussle to ensure their future security through ownership over materials and technology that tame silicon.

**Eye Health and Aging**

*Date/Time:* Wednesday, October 15, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Dr. Robert Becker, Optometrist, Eye Care of Central New York

*Description:* A discussion of the changes that occur to our eyes as we age and how we can keep our eyes healthy.

**Alcohol and Agriculture in Africa: Why it Matters and Potential Solutions**

*Date/Time:* Wednesday, October 22, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* David Murphy, Assistant Professor of Economics, Colgate University

*Description:* Alcohol abuse and addiction is common across rural areas of Sub-Saharan Africa and poses impediments for economic development. A Colgate-sponsored initiative in Kenya provides information, lessons, and possible solutions.

**Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Eighty Years On**

*Date/Time:* Thursday, October 30, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Andrew Rotter, Charles A. Dana Professor of History Emeritus, Colgate University

*Description:* The dropping of the atomic bomb by the United States on two Japanese cities remains, eighty years later, one--or two--of the most controversial events in human history. This talk will consider the decisions to build and use the bombs, the evolution of wartime doctrine that permitted the mass killing of civilians from the air, the role of the bombings in ending the Pacific War, and the legacy of the attacks.

**Artificial Intelligence: Its Uses and Limitations, Part I**

*Date/Time:* Wednesdays, November 5 and 12, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Forrest Davis, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Colgate University

*Description:* A two-part presentation on current developments in Artificial Intelligence technology: history, use cases, examples, limitations, and ethical questions.

**Wine is Places**

*Date/Time:* Tuesday, November 18, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Alice Virden-Speer, Owner, Crush Bottleshop, Hamilton

*Description:* An exploration of three noble grape varieties and how climate, soil, and tradition shape the personality of each wine. Develop tools to understand what’s in your glass and why it tastes the way it does—no prior wine knowledge required, just a sense of curiosity.

**Publishing Sexual Aberrance in the Victorian Age: William Hepworth Dixon, the Oneida Perfectionists, and the Shakers**

*Date/Time:* Tuesday, December 2, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Christian Goodwillie, Director and Curator, Special Collections, Burke Library, Hamilton College

*Description:* This presentation will examine Dixon's portrayal of the Shakers and the Oneida Community in his books New America and Spiritual Wives. OC leader John Humphrey Noyes took umbrage at Dixon's portrayal, resulting in a lengthy public war of words. For better or worse, Dixon gave each community global exposure, offering Victorians a vicarious opportunity to engage with counter-cultural religious traditions.

**Playhouse Owners and Investors during Shakespeare’s Time**

*Date/Time:* Wednesday, December 10, 3:30-5:00

*Presenter:* Susan Cerasano, Edgar W. B. Fairchild Professor of Literature, Colgate University

*Description:* An overview of some of the men who owned theatres during Shakespeare's time, discussing who they were, what their motives were in building the first capitalist playhouses, how they financed their investments, and what the risk culture of entrepreneurship consisted of in the entertainment business of early modern London.

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**Coming in May 2026**

*LifeLong Learning Plus*

**The Wild Adirondack Way**

*Description:* An in-depth, four-part discussion of the history, natural resources, and politics of New York State’s Adirondack Park.

*Presenter:* Ellen Percy Kraly, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Geography and Environmental Studies Emerita at Colgate University