

Call for Presentation Proposals



Hail the Nocturnal: Reveries, Nighttime, and Dark Sides

A multi-disciplinary series of lightning talks and roundtable discussion
OCTOBER 21, 2026/6PM-8PM/THE PLAZA THEATRE

According to Frank Borzage, at least, “History is made at night.” But over time, the night has evoked many paradoxical ideas: for some, the nocturnal hours convey beauty, invite dreaming, and permit rest. For others, the nighttime is tailor-made for nightmares, secrets and shadowy dealings. The night has inspired film genres (film noir), musical scores (nocturnes), and supernatural monsters (vampires). If we turn to history, darkness has enabled both subversive meetings and riots (think Stonewall) or destructive acts of war (the Blitz). We might also ask, how do our psychologies shift during night-time, or how does darkness shape the physical spaces we live in? What communities and cultures emerge only in the evening? What associations do *you* bring to the night? As a theme, the ‘nocturnal’ calls for talks on the night, including (by association) themes of darkness, dreaming, relaxation, or sleep. These themes may be literal or figurative—what dark corners demand illumination in your discipline? What gets made at night in your field?

We invite lightning talks that consider the relationship between your work and/or scholarly interests to the evening-time and all it embodies.

Possible themes might include but are not restricted to:

- The ‘dark side’ of your discipline
- Shadowy deals and bargains
- Sleep and/or insomnia
- Night-work of all sorts
- Night-time drives
- Monsters or creatures of the night

- Dreams, reveries, nightmares
- Relaxing at night
- Depictions of the night in art
- Historical nighttime events
- Night-time aesthetics
- Nocturnal communities
- Spaces designed for sleep and rest
- Things that go bump in the night

Lightning talks will be approximately seven minutes each, with a moderated Q and A following the panel.

If you would like to propose a presentation for this event, please click on [this link](#) and provide a brief (150 words) description on the subject of your proposed presentation. The organising Committee would like to include as many presentations as is possible, but if it becomes necessary to select a feasible number of speakers for the event, the selection will be done by a blind review of proposals.

Submission Deadline: Monday, September 21, 2026

If you would like further information, please contact the Phoenix Rising working group Chair, Tamara Jenkins (TJenkins@mtroyal.ca).