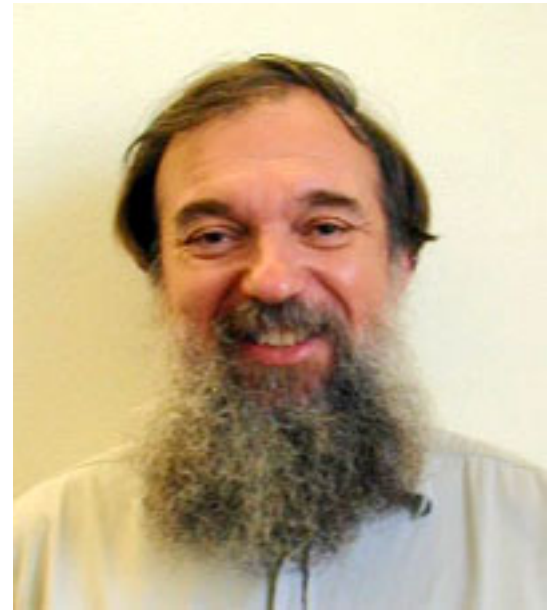# Centenary Distinguished Lecture by

Calvin Normore

(McGill University)

"The Beginning of the World"

Friday, Nov. 28 at 3:30 pm
in Tory Breezeway TB-W1

(Free public lecture followed by a reception)

Abstract: Whether the world had a beginning—and whether that question could be settled by human reason—have puzzled philosophers and cosmologists for a very long time and the arguments on both sides have a long history. In this lecture I trace part of that history from the 6th century debate between Simplicius and John Philoponus through the work of Avicenna, al-Ghazali and Averroes and the 13th century debate on the issue at the University of Paris to the echoes of these arguments among our own contemporaries. I then take a hand in the controversy.

Biography of Normore: Calvin Normore completed his Ph.D. in philosophy at the University of Toronto. After the tenure of an Izaak W. Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Alberta, he taught at Princeton, Ohio State University, and UCLA. In 2008 he took up the William MacDonald Chair of Moral Philosophy at McGill University.

Normore is one of the leading experts on medieval philosophy in the world, as well as a well regarded figure in such diverse areas as the philosophy of time, political philosophy and logic. The range of his expertise, and the connections between his research and history, medieval studies, religious studies, political science, mathematics and other areas, is a remarkable example of philosophy's breadth and its ties to other academic disciplines.

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