

International Conference

LEONARD COHEN 2026

Global Perspectives on
a Multi-disciplinary Artist

PROGRAMME

October 6-8

Ghent University
Belgium

Faculty Library
of Arts and Philosophy

cohen2026.ugent.be



Leonard Cohen 2026

Global Perspectives on a Multi-disciplinary Artist

Main organisers

Francis Mus (Ghent University), Kait Pinder (Acadia University),
Joel Deshayé (Memorial University)

Other members of the organising committee

Frederik Dhaenens (Ghent University), France Schils (Ghent University), Tessa Vannieuwenhuyze (Ghent University), Dirk Van Hulle (University of Antwerp), Michel Delville (Liège University)

This conference is an interuniversity collaboration between Ghent University (Belgium), Acadia University (Canada), Memorial University (Canada), the University of Strasbourg (France), the University of Antwerp (Belgium), and the University of Liège (Belgium).

Scientific committee

Colin Hill (University of Toronto), Christophe Lebold (Université de Strasbourg), Elly McCausland (Ghent University), Anneleen Masschelein (KU Leuven), Tom Toremans (KU Leuven), Andrew Bricker (Ghent University), Birgit Van Puymbroeck (VU Brussel)

This conference was made possible through the financial support of FWO, Ghent University, Liège University (CIPA - Traverses), University of Antwerp, Université de Strasbourg, Memorial University, Acadia University, research groups TRACE and CLIV.



Tuesday, October 6, 2026
Venue: Boekentoren (Rozier 9)

10.00 12.00

Opportunity to see the exhibiton

Boekentoren, Visitor Centre

12.30 13.30

Registration

Boekentoren, Belvédère

13.30 14.00

Opening remarks

Boekentoren, Belvédère

- **Francis Mus, Kait Pinder and Joel Deshayé** — Main Organisers
- **Ritika Nandkeolyar** — Counsellor at the Embassy of Canada to Belgium and Luxembourg, Political, Economic and Public Affairs
- **Gita Deneckere** — Dean, Faculty of Arts and Philosophy, Ghent University
- **Piet Van Poucke** — Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication and TRACE/CLIV Research Group

14.00 15.15

Reading group

Boekentoren, Belvédère

UGent Leest: eight readings of Cohen's work, together with 20 participants from Ghent University

15.15 16.00

Break

16.00 17.15

Book launch

Boekentoren, Belvédère

David Shumway, *The World of Leonard Cohen*
(Cambridge University Press)

With: Heather Arnet, Robert de Young, Christophe Lebold,
Francis Mus, Ian Rae, David Shumway. Chair: Kait Pinder

17.15 19.00

Opening reception

Faculty Library of Arts and Philosophy, Rozier 44



Wednesday, October 7, 2026
Venue: Faculty Library of
Arts and Philosophy (Rozier 44)

9.00 10.00

Keynote

Faculty Library, Atrium

Sherry Simon

Cohen's Montreal: Home and the World

(chair: Francis Mus)

10.00 10.30

Coffee break

Faculty Library, Atrium

10.30 12.30

Concurrent session 1 - Religion and Philosophy 1

Faculty Library, Loveling

(chair: Robert Lecker)

- **José Miguel Arias**
Leonard Cohen, Lorca, and the Virtues in a Poem
- **Doron Cohen**
Jesus, the Madonna, and Much More: Christian Imagery in Leonard Cohen's Work
- **Mark Gunnery**
A Crack in Everything: Leonard Cohen and North American Neo-Sabbatianism
- **Jorge Onecha**
"Help Thou My Unbelief": A Linguistic Reassessment of Leonard Cohen's Biblical Landscape

Concurrent session 2 - Sex, Race & Self

Faculty Library, Atrium

(chair: Frederik Dhaenens)

- **Carla Billon**
Queering Cohen: Toward a Queer Poetics of Leonard Cohen
- **Helena Gurfinkel**
"I Have Tried, in My Way, To Be Free": Performativity and Authenticity in Rainer Werner Fassbinder's Uses of "Bird on a Wire"
- **Nico Hernando**
Primitivism, Ancestry, and the Post-modern in Leonard Cohen's A Ballet of Lepers
- **Christophe Lebold**
Various Positions and double-breasted suits: formality in Leonard Cohen's Art and Persona

Concurrent session 3 - Teaching

Faculty Library, Magnel

(chair: Els Snick)

- **Mary-Lynn Chambers**
A Cross-Cultural Connection: Cohen, A Canadian, Brings Creative Clarity to an HBCU Campus
- **John Currie**
Opportunities for Young People to Learn from Iconic Song-Writers Such as Leonard Cohen through Educational Practice
- **Dan Fogel**
Presenting Leonard Cohen: A Pedagogical Experience with Life-long Learners
- **Elly McCausland**
Little People, WHOSE Dreams? Constructing (Musical) Celebrity in Children's Books

12.30 14.00

Lunch break

Faculty Library, Atrium

14.00 15.30

Concurrent session 1 - Religion and Philosophy 2

Faculty Library, Loveling

(chair: Lieve Jooken)

- **John Bessai** [ONLINE]
Leonard Cohen's Public Spirituality: Lyrics, Survival, and the Canadian Aporetic Condition
- **Daniel Lichman**
"I Have Seen the Future, Brother: It Is Murder": The Priestly and the Prophetic in the Work of Leonard Cohen and Lionel Blue
- **Kutay Onayli**
"A Good Place to Look at the Moon": Cohen, Cavafy, and Modern Greece

Concurrent session 2 - Politics

Faculty Library, Atrium

(chair: Elly McCausland)

- **Kait Pinder**
2009-On-Going: Michael Rakowitz's Critical Collaboration with Leonard Cohen
- **Alexandra Sanchez**
Cohen Looking at Cuba Looking at Cohen: Beyond the Tourist and the Field Commander
- **Peter Stone**
How Was Leonard Cohen Interested in Politics?

Concurrent session 3 - Style

Faculty Library, Magnel

(chair: Bram Lambrecht)

- **Janneke van der Leest**
"Chelsea Hotel #2": A Modern Elegy with Romantic Resonance?
- **Corey Zwikstra**
Leonard Cohen: Master of the Table
- **Christof Graf**
Leonard Cohen & Nick Cave: The Art of Interpreting a Leonard Cohen Song or How To Do a "Good" Leonard Cohen Cover Song

15.30 16.00

Coffee break

Faculty Library, Atrium

18.00 20.00

Dinner @ Handelsbeurs

Handelsbeurs (Kouter 29, Ghent)

20.00 22.30

Cultural event @ Handelsbeurs

Handelsbeurs (Kouter 29, Ghent)



Thursday, October 8, 2026
Venue: Faculty Library of
Arts and Philosophy (Rozier 44)

9.00 10.00

Keynote

Faculty Library, Atrium

Robert Lecker

Leonard Cohen's Bodies

(chair: Joel Deshaye)

10.00 10.30

Coffee break

Faculty Library, Atrium

10.30 12.30

Concurrent session 1 - Translation

Faculty Library, Loveling

(chair: Sherry Simon)

- **Adrià Martín Mor**
"I'm Happy to Be in Catalonia": A Survey of Leonard Cohen's Songs in Catalan Translation
- **Emilio Rodríguez Blackburn**
Translating Leonard Cohen: "Hallelujah" as a Translator's Poethics
- **Marta Kaźmierczak**
Cohen Various Embodied: The Polish Texts and Contexts
- **Francis Mus**
From Public Persona to Private Voice: Leonard Cohen and the Politics of Translation

Concurrent session 2 - Place

Faculty Library, Atrium

(chair: Alexandra Sanchez)

- **Joel Deshaye**
Musical Chairs: Leonard Cohen in Performance at the ICC Berlin
- **Tem Mirkazemiyan**
"No One Knows Where the Night Is Going": Constellations of Cohen in Iran
- **Susan Ingram**
Leonard Cohen Is: A Tale of Two Solitudes
- **Jiri Mesic**
El torero Leonard Cohen: The Impact of His Work on Spanish Music and Poetry

Concurrent session 3 - Performance

Faculty Library, Magnel

(chair: Tessa Vannieuwenhuyze)

- **Michael Nault**
Project KOAN: A Biometric Ecosystem and the End of the Passive Spectator
- **Marie-Lise Paoli**
Dance Me to the End of Songs: Leonard Cohen's Choreographic Imagination and Its Afterlives
- **Mickaël Savchenko**
Can Active Analysis Help Us Analyse Leonard Cohen?
- **Jeffrey Spear**
"Thanks for the Dance": Anjani and Leonard Creating Together

12.30 14.00

Lunch break

Faculty Library, Atrium

14.00 15.30

Concurrent session 1 - Death & Memory

Faculty Library, Loveling

(chair: Nico Hernando)

- **Colin McCullough**
Leonard Cohen and his relationship to death
- **Mark E. Santow**
“Listen to the Butterfly”: Leonard Cohen, the Blues Sensibility, and Human Finitude
- **Natalia Vesselova**
To The End of Love and Beyond: Leonard Cohen as an Object of Art

Concurrent session 2 - Historical Moments

Faculty Library, Atrium

(chair: Piet Van Poucke)

- **Kat Jaworska**
The Journey of Song and Verse: Leonard Cohen’s Artistic Path
- **David R. Shumway**
Songs of Leonard Cohen in its Moment
- **Robert de Young**
“New York Is Cold / But I Like Where I’m Living”: Leonard Cohen in New York, 1967

Concurrent session 3 - Technique

Faculty Library, Magnel

(chair: Christophe Lebold)

- **Ian Rae**
Leonard Cohen: The Poet Laureate of Irregular Metre
- **Stefano Lombardi Vallauri**
The Voice of Intimacy: Leonard Cohen, “Master of the Smallest Link”

15.30 16.00

Concluding session

Faculty Library, Atrium

16.00 17.00

Farewell reception

Faculty Library, Atrium

Wifi

WIFI GUEST ACCOUNT 1

Name: Cohen1_2026

Location: Rozier

Login: guestCohen1

Password: 3gjajPTe

WIFI GUEST ACCOUNT 2

Name: Cohen2_2026

Location: Rozier

Login: guestCohen2

Password: cCPHAAcU

Make a wireless connection with "UGentGuest". If you have set up to request an IP address automatically, you will receive an IP address starting with 193.190.8x. Now you are connected, but not yet authenticated. You should start a webbrowser and you will be redirected to a logon screen. If not surf to <http://www.ugent.be>. Enter the username and password as mentioned above.

