

SLAIS Colloquium Series - 2008

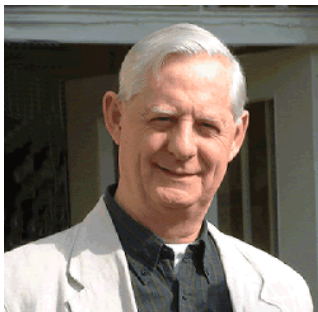
Writing, Publishing and Teaching Children's and Young Adult Literature from the 1960s until now

Monday, July 21 5:30-6:30 pm

**** Reception to follow in SLAIS lounge ****

**Room 461, Barber Learning Centre
1961 East Mall, UBC**

Abstract: I started teaching 11 to 18 year olds in the 1950s and in the 1960s began writing fiction and plays for young people and reviews, essays and books on reading and teaching literature. In 1967 I founded the first paperback list in Britain of original novels for teenagers and was General Editor for fifteen years, and in 1969 my wife and I set up The Thimble Press. From 1970 till 1992 I tutored part-time in-service courses for teachers and set up the children's book courses for undergraduates at Westminster College, Oxford, (now part of Oxford Brooks University). In 1978 I published *Breaktime*, the first of what I came to think of as 'my own' novels - novels written in the consciousness of youth but with the same density and uncompromising use of language, content, and form as 'adult' fiction. *Breaktime* turned out to be the first of six novels that became known as 'The Dance Sequence'. It took thirty years to complete the sequence. The last of the six, *This Is All: The Pillow Book of Cordelia Kenn*, was published in the UK in 2005. Currently I am working on an adult novel dealing with old age now rather than old age as it used to be. I'll draw from this experience stories and remarks about the history and progress of children's and youth literature from the 1950s until now, from the points of view of writing it, publishing it, and teaching it.



Speaker: Aidan Chambers is an internationally acclaimed U.K. educator, literacy specialist, and award-winning writer of fiction and plays for young people. His books have been translated into 19 languages. The recipient of multiple awards for his body of work, Chambers has been recognized for his lifetime achievement in children's literature and for his writings in the field of children's literature criticism and literacy.