

MEDIA ADVISORY

On the Edge of Always Joy Kogawa to speak at Congress 2013

*Kogawa reflects on her writing process and
the story explored in her work in progress "Gently to Nagasaki"*

June 2nd - Victoria – What matters is not so much how one gets there – by land, air, faith, hell or by dancing naked along the beach on the shallow edge of the sea. What matters is to be there.

For this *Big Thinking* lecture, Canadian author and poet **Joy Kogawa** invites us to join her on a journey as she reflects on her writing process and the story explored in her work-in-progress “Gently to Nagasaki.”

Born in Vancouver in 1935, Joy Kogawa and her family were sent to an internment camp for Japanese Canadians during World War II. She writes about the experience in her critically acclaimed novel *Obasan*, which won the 1982 Books in Canada First Novel Award, along with many other accolades. Kogawa later adapted the story into a children’s book, *Naomi’s Road*. Her other novels include *Itsuka* and *The Rain Ascends*. She has also published several collections of poetry, including *Woman in the Woods* and *A Song of Lilith*. Kogawa is a Member of the Order of Canada, and in 2010 was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese Government. Kogawa is currently writer-in-residence at the University of Toronto.

What? Big Thinking Lecture - On the Edge of Always

Where? MacLaurin Building - B125 - Phillip T. Young Theatre

When? Monday June 3rd at 7:45 a.m.

The [*Big Thinking*](#) lecture series is presented by the [Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences](#) and the [University of Victoria](#). Supporting sponsors are the [Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada](#) and the [Canada Foundation for Innovation](#). Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond’s address is sponsored by the [Royal Society of Canada](#).

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About the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences

Organized by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Congress is the largest interdisciplinary conference in Canada. Described as a “conference of conferences,” Congress involves nearly 70 academic associations that represent a rich spectrum of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences, including literature, history, theatre, film studies, education, music, sociology, geography, social work and many others.