COINCIDENCES, MISTAKES, COMPLETE DISASTERS, PIGEON DROPPINGS, BONGO DRUMS, X-RAYS, AND SNakes: SERENDIPITY AND SCIENCE.

People think of scientific discovery as the culmination of an orderly, logical process consisting of rational thought, precise methodology, and painstaking experimentation—the exact opposite of the creative process which governs art and literature. Nothing could be further from the truth. Acclaimed science-fiction author Connie Willis will discuss the surprising similarities between science and art and the complex, comical, often accidental and sometimes unbelievable methods by which science has made discoveries ranging from radioactivity to penicillin and the Big Bang.

Connie Willis is a world-famous science fiction writer who has won multiple Hugo and Nebula Awards. She's the author of such time-travel classics as DOOMSDAY BOOK, TO SAY NOTHING OF THE DOG, and the two-volume BLACKOUT and ALL CLEAR, and her novel BELLWETHER involves chaos theory, scientific discovery, serendipity, fads, and a flock of sheep. Willis is a SFWA Grand Master of Science Fiction and has been inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame. She has just finished a romantic comedy about telepathy and is currently working on short stories about paper dolls, a mysterious bookshop, and the Isle of Capri.