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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

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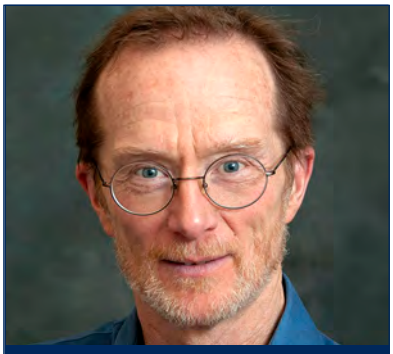

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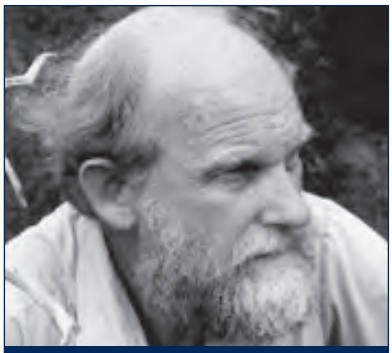

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PHILOSOPHY NEWS

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Welcome

This year, *Philosophy News*, the newsletter of the UofT Philosophy Departments, comes with a brand new design; its new layout, and especially its content, will hopefully make up for the long wait; we promise to be back on schedule next time around. I hope you enjoy reading about our activities and some of the events that kept us busy during the past year.

Since last summer I have the great privilege and pleasure to serve as the chair of the Department of Philosophy on the St. George Campus and as chair of the Graduate Department of Philosophy. I didn't imagine how exciting this job actually is and how rewarding it is to head such a vibrant philosophy community. We at UofT are widely recognized as the top department in Canada and among the very best in the world. But what makes us such a special place is not only all our extraordinary faculty members, but also our outstanding undergraduate and graduate students. I owe a huge amount of gratitude to Brad Inwood, my immediate predecessor; he very unselfishly took over as chair for twelve months last year and he also prepared me for my new role, while I was taking a short break from administration. Brad shares his impressions from his year at the helm in two pieces included in this newsletter.

At the end of his one-year term as Acting and Interim Chair and after more than 30 years of outstanding service to the University of Toronto, Brad retired and moved south of the border to take up a new position at Yale University. This is a big change for us, but luckily Brad will keep close ties with UofT. Derek Allen also retired last summer after a long and distinguished career of more than 40 years, bowing out of the position of longest-serving member of the department! In this case too, one can hardly talk of retirement, since Derek keeps on teaching at Trinity College, with which he has extended and lasting ties, having served as the College's Dean of Arts and Vice-Provost. In other faculty news, Tom Berry and Jennifer Whiting resigned last year to move on to new positions at the University of Pittsburgh. In his final year in the department, Tom served as undergraduate coordinator and tri-campus TA coordinator, and we are thankful for his excellent services in these two jobs. We thank Jennifer and Tom for their many contributions to the department and we wish them both all the best in their new environment.

Joining us for the next three years as the Senator Jerahmiel S. and Carole S. Grafstein Visiting Chair in Jewish Philosophy is Michael Morgan, Professor Emeritus of the University of Indiana, and we are delighted to welcome him. Michael has longstanding ties with UofT and has been a visitor here before. This new multi-year arrangement will greatly enhance the teaching of and research in Jewish Philosophy at UofT. Michael gave an inaugural lecture, with the title "Jewish Dialogical Philosophy", last November.

The Department is now in hiring mode. This term we are searching for three positions on the St. George Campus: for assistant professors in Ethics and Philosophy of Mind, and for an assistant/associate professor in Ancient Philosophy. The latter is a joint position with the Department of Classics. We hope to run a similar number of searches next year, since our faculty contingent has shrunk slightly in recent years and we need new colleagues to teach in our successful programs.

Philosophy remains a highly popular subject among UofT students, which is not surprising given the excellence in teaching and research of our faculty and graduate students – not to mention the intrinsic value of doing philosophy and the many pleasures arising from it! Almost all our courses are at full capacity and we hope to expand our existing course offerings in the future. In a world where every bit of information is now just a click away, making sense of it all becomes ever more crucial. The skills acquired in a rigorous program such as philosophy are more important than ever.

One area we want to develop in the immediate future is the facilitation of our students' transition from the university to the workplace. The Department already runs various "Backpack to Briefcase" (B2B) events during the year which give students the chance to meet many inspiring alumni. We are eager to do more on this front, as it allows us to connect better with our remarkable alumni: we are always glad to hear from you and we would like to bring you back to campus more often!

Martin Pickavé
Chair, Department of Philosophy,
Faculty of Arts and Science
Chair, Graduate Department of Philosophy

UTM Philosophy News

Thanks to Sergio Tenenbaum's superb leadership during the last 6 years, the UTM Department was able to start the year with a bang. Most noteworthy is the inauguration of our Socrates Project, modeled on the highly successful program of the same name on the St George campus.

The project, which involves six of our top undergraduate students, is affiliated with our introductory course, Philosophy 105. Each Socrates student leads one PHL105 tutorial each week, paid at the standard TA rate, and participates in a weekly seminar devoted both to teacher training and to deeper examination of the topics covered in the PHL105 lectures.

For the seminar, led this year by PhD candidate Belinda Piercy, each student writes an article-length paper on one of the latter topics under the supervision of a faculty member whose research is in the relevant area. While the project has been going for only two months, it is already getting great reviews.

We are also in the process of redesigning our Ethics and Society minor under the new title Ethics, Law, and Society. We conceive of the program as designed primarily to serve students who are planning to apply to law school. (As you may know, philosophy majors are the highest scoring group on the LSAT.) This orientation will make the minor attractive to students in sociology for example, for whom our courses might not otherwise have been a strong draw.

Our other big news is that construction will soon (finally!) begin on the building, known temporarily as "North 2", that will be our new home beginning in early summer 2018 if all goes well. The architects and builders have been holding a series of meetings with the departments that will be housed there, and we have been communicating our needs for space and layout. As the plan currently stands, Philosophy will share the top floor of the building with the Sociology Department. These drawings, by the firm Perkins & Will, give an idea of the impressive facility:

More information about the new building can be found at http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/main-news/northern-renaissance-work-begins-phase-two-new-north-building

Diana Raffman
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto Mississauga

UTSC Philosophy News

Congratulations are in order.

Karolina Hübner, now Associate Professor of Philosophy at UTSC, was awarded tenure at the University of Toronto on July 1, 2015. Hübner is a leading Spinoza scholar with an international reputation.

Not only that: her work deals with questions that are absolutely central both to contemporary debates and to the entire History of Philosophy. Her work has appeared Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, the Journal of the History of Philosophy, the Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie, and various important collections of essays. While on sabbatical, she is working on a book on Spinoza and Being. We very much look forward to working with her in the coming years.

In other faculty news, we welcome Anthony Bruno, who is with us on a one-year contract, after an Alexander von Humboldt postdoctoral research fellowhip in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Bonn. Bruno works primarily on issues in metaphysics and epistemology in Kant, German idealism and 19th- and 20th-century continental philosophy.

In other news, the UTSC Association of Philosophy Students continues to be very active. In March of 2015, they hosted the annual UTSC undergraduate Philosophy conference, with 35 attendees: there were four undergraduate speakers, from the University of Michigan, the University of York (U.K.), the University of Sheffield, and McGill University. The conference concluded with a keynote talk by Russ Shafer-Landau (then at Wisconsin). This generated a lot of interesting conversation, which we continued over a large dinner attended by some 20 students, faculty members, and visitors.

The APS has continued this year, with numerous discussion nights, exam study sessions, and other activities. Notably, they have involved our graduate students in their discussions: last term, Michael Blezy spoke on Kantian appearances; and this term, Kevin Kuhl spoke on the Philosophy of Mathematics. Both talks were very well attended, and great opportunities for UTSC students to interact with graduate students doing cutting edge work. The 2016 conference will take place on March 12, with Angela Mendelovici (University of Western Ontario) delivering the keynote. We are all looking forward to it.

Finally, the UTSC Department of Philosophy underwent a rigorous review in the Fall of 2015, with external reviewers from UBC, SFU and Western. The reviewers' report should be a key document for the Department as we go forward: its recommendations should help us in our twin goals of contributing in a major way both to the philosophical community at the University of Toronto, and to the more general research and teaching community at UTSC.

Phil Kremer
Chair, Department of Philosophy
University of Toronto Scarborough

Members of the UTSC Association of Philosophy Students

From the Graduate Department

Despite a very tough academic job market, Toronto's graduate programs in Philosophy continue to attract hundreds of strong applications from across Canada and around the world.

We hosted our second annual graduate recruitment weekend in March 2015, inviting potential future students to meet current students and alumni. Our alumni speakers were Michael Garnett (PhD 2006, now tenured at Birkbeck College London) and Kara Richardson (PhD 2008, now tenured at Syracuse), with graduate student commentators Benjamin Wald and Celia Byrne.

Toronto succeeded in recruiting a top-notch batch of graduate students, coming in from as far away as Thailand, and from institutions including Columbia, Cambridge, McGill, Calgary and Colorado College. Past, present and future Toronto philosophy students are welcome to come out to our third annual graduate weekend, March 18-19, 2016, with alumni speakers Danielle Bromwich (PhD 2008, now tenure-track at UMass Boston) and Monte Johnson (PhD 2003, now tenured at UC San Diego). Details of the weekend's events will be available on our website by February.

For the third year in a row, a Toronto Philosophy PhD student won the elite Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. This year's winner was Celia Byrne, for a project on Ibn Sina's theory of knowledge. Six Toronto doctoral students won major Canada Graduate Scholarships: Eamon Darnell, Elena Derksen, Natalie Helberg, Manish Oza, Catherine Rioux, and Julia Smith. Catherine Rioux is also the winner of the John MacRory Award. SSHRC Doctoral Awards went to Clinton Debogorski and Rachel MacKinnon.

Incoming PhD student Valerie Bernard won a Masters-level Canada Graduate Scholarship as well as the Mary Beatty Award. Balzan Fellowships went to incoming PhD students Melissa Rees and Maria Keller; incoming PhD student Prach Panchakunathorn has been selected for a Jackman Junior Fellowship.

The 2015 Martha Lile Love Essay Award went to Manish Oza, for his essay "Hegel and Formal Idealism." Manish is a Qualifying Year student in our JD/PhD program. Honorable Mention went to Frank Hong, for his paper "Hanks and the Paderewski Puzzle." Frank was a Toronto MA student in 2014-15 and is now a PhD student at the University of Southern California. The Martha Lile Love Teaching Award went to Dan Hooley for his summer course in Bioethics.

Second-year PhD student Hamish Russell won the Amartya Sen Prize, a prize jointly administered by Yale's Global Justice Program, Academics Stand Against Poverty, and Global Financial Integrity. Hamish's winning essay, "Abusive Tax Avoidance and Responsibilities of Tax Professionals", was co-authored with Professor Gillian Brock of the University of Auckland, where Hamish completed his BA in 2013; their essay shared first place with an essay by Max Everest-Phillips, Director of the United Nations Development Programme Global Centre for Public Service Excellence.

Luke Roelofs won this year's David Savan Dissertation Prize, for his thesis, Combining minds: A defense of the possibility of Experiential Combination. This award is now given annually in the department.

It has been an active year for student travel, with Toronto graduate students presenting their research at a wide array of venues, ranging from the European Congress of Analytical Philosophy in Bucharest, Romania, to the Canadian Philosophical Association meetings in Ottawa. Toronto students participated in specialized workshops and large philosophy conferences, in locations including Harvard University, the University of Antwerp, University of British Columbia, the University of Rochester, Open University of Israel, Fordham University, Oxford University, and the University of Manchester.

From the St. George Undergraduate Department

On June 30, I completed what proved to be a one-year stint as Undergraduate Coordinator.

What I learned as TA Coordinator was of great use to me as Undergraduate Coordinator, and I heartily recommend that anyone wishing to enter a higher departmental office begin as TA Coordinator. (The previous statement is a half-truth.)

My objective as Undergraduate Coordinator was to keep the great ship afloat and in motion, and I owe a great debt to Eric Correia for being at the helm every day while I was engaged in troubleshooting either in the department or abroad. In 2015-16, there will be no great changes; we will continue our fine programs and add a tweak to make them better.

Our Socrates Project, in which senior undergraduate students lead tutorials for an Introduction to Philosophy course, continues to attract our top Philosophy majors. The Program is copied everywhere – both UTM and UTSC have prepared to roll out their own versions – but equalled nowhere. Ronnie de Sousa returns as the instructor for the Socrates Project PHL 100 Y.

We welcome ten lecturers – Alex Koo, Mark Schranz, Brian Embry, Matthew Siebert, Scott Howard, Jonathan Rick, Amber Ross, Nathan Gilbert, Francesco Gagliardi, and Victor Kumar – who will fill gaps in our curriculum left by faculty leaves and departures. In addition, Jewish Studies post-doc Gabriel Citron will offer two courses for us. This infusion of young talent will keep our course offerings vital and fresh.

In 2014-15, our Lead Writing TA, Willie Costello, implemented in our WIT (Writing Instruction for TAs) courses a new form of TA training: the Feedback Session, in which TAs for a given course review the feedback provided on student writing with an eye to making it more effective and constructive.

Last year, these sessions were limited to the four WIT courses and one other 200-level course, but our WIT funding proposal for 2015-16 includes Feedback Sessions for twelve 200-level courses. Mark Fortney, the Lead Writing TA for 2015-16, will conduct this innovative form of TA training.

Finally, I welcome my successor as Undergraduate Coordinator, Imogen Dickie. It will fall to her to oversee what I have scheduled for 2015-16, and I call on all my colleagues to do what they can to make her first-year as smooth as mine was.

Thomas Berry
Associate Chair, Undergraduate (2014-15)

Graduate Department News *continued*

In the past year, Toronto students have had their research accepted for publication in the Journal of Philosophy (keeping up a three-year run!), Philosophical Studies, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Psychology of Consciousness, Logos & Episteme, Journal of Human Development and Capabilities, and the Harvard University Working Paper Series.

Toronto students have also been involved in a variety of outreach activities, including Wi-Phi, a project that makes short animated videos on philosophical topics, videos that reach millions of people annually through YouTube and Khan Academy.

Jennifer Nagel
Associate Chair, Graduate

From the Former Acting Chair – St. George

Looking back on my year as acting chair of the St George Philosophy department I find it hard not to get sentimental. I write this in my last few days before leaving the University of Toronto, and my association with the Philosophy department goes a long way back, to the time when, as a graduate student in Classics, I was welcomed by Philosophy into the intellectual life of the department. I've been formally a part of the department for just under ten years, but my sense of belonging goes back more than three decades. I'm very grateful that I've had this opportunity to serve the department as acting chair – it has been a chance to repay a small portion of the debt I owe to the most generous and broad-minded (not to mention eclectic) philosophy department imaginable.

It has been a momentous year. I was delighted to see for myself what a great staff we have in the department and I'm grateful to everyone, Anita Di Giacomo, Ben Eldridge, and Eric Correia as well as the graduate staff, for their patience with me as I learned the ropes. Our undergraduates continue to amaze me, not least the leadership of the PCU, the editorial team at Noesis, and the Socrates project participants.

Despite the strains of the TA strike we have been able to come together as a department, students and faculty alike, in pursuit of the kind of intellectual and moral enrichment that only philosophy can provide. I've been able to get to know my colleagues better and to appreciate more clearly the value of being part of such a wonderful group. Tom Berry has been an incredible undergraduate program director (as well as tri-campus TA coordinator); no matter how complicated things got in Arts and Science, Tom and Eric made sure that I didn't have to deal with it. Imogen Dickie will be taking over in the undergraduate job as Tom leaves us for the University of Pittsburgh.

The experience of standing in for our new chair, Martin Pickavé, has been genuinely rewarding and I'm grateful to him for doing so much of my work for me all year! The future of the department is in excellent hands and I am sure it will go from strength to strength under Martin's leadership.

Brad Inwood
Acting Chair (2014-15), Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Science

From the Former Interim Graduate Chair

In 2013-2014, the last year of Arthur Ripstein's chairmanship, the tri-campus graduate department undertook to think hard about the relationship between the office of graduate chair and the office of St George undergraduate chair. Being philosophers, they knew that logically the jobs of the graduate chair and the three undergraduate chairs are independent, but with one brief exception in 2008-2009 our graduate chair has always been the St George chair.

That has worked well in the modern world of the unified tri-campus graduate department, a tribute to the insight and hard work of former graduate chairs Cheryl Misak, Donald Ainslie and Arthur Ripstein.

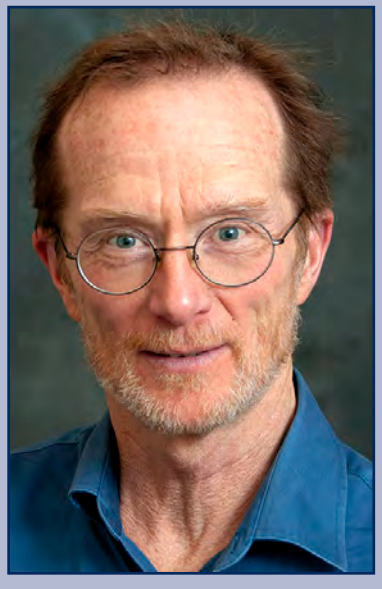
But in this same new world it was becoming clear that all three campuses are bursting with talent, administrative as well as philosophical. It didn't seem right or efficient to pass over de facto the prospect of leadership for the graduate program coming from Scarborough or Mississauga. So when I was asked to spend this year as interim graduate chair I was happy to take it on. This, I thought, would give the department the breathing room it needed to explore the issue and to decide who should lead the graduate program into the next chapter of its ongoing success story.

We had a serious discussion about whether it would be a good idea to separate the St George chair and the graduate chair and if so how it could be done. That was a healthy debate and I, at least, learned a lot about how the three departments run and how they can most effectively cooperate to provide the best philosophical environment for all of our colleagues and students, graduate and undergraduate, on all three campuses.

In the end the department decided on the incoming St George chair, Martin Pickavé, as the new graduate chair (congratulations, Martin!); but that doesn't mean that nothing has changed. The debates, formal and

RETIREMENT

Brad Inwood



University Professor of Classics and Philosophy Brad Inwood took early retirement in 2015 after a career of 33 years at the University of Toronto. Appointed to the Department of Classics in 1982, Brad's specialty in ancient philosophy soon brought him into a close working relationship with the Philosophy department.

The roots of this relationship lay in his days as a graduate student in Classics at this University, when he began hanging out with philosophers and auditing graduate courses offered by people like Paul Gooch, Hans Herzberger, and Tom Robinson; he claims to have particularly fond memories of Descartes reading groups in André Gombay's living room.

His first formal philosophical collaboration was an article on Plato and Leibniz that he and Graeme Hunter (PhD Toronto 1981, now teaching at the University of Ottawa) published in the Journal for the History of Philosophy, but before long he and Lloyd Gerson co-authored Hellenistic Philosophy: Introductory Readings. Most of Brad's research has been in the fields of Presocratic philosophy (The Poem of Empedocles) and Stoicism – a revised version of his dissertation was published in 1985 as Ethics and Human Action in Early Stoicism.

While serving as Graduate Coordinator of the Classics department in the early 1990's he proposed that Philosophy join with Classics and the Centre for Medieval Studies in the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. The program formally began in 1992, when he became its founding director. In turn, everyone in the growing group of faculty members in the area took the reins of the program, which was greatly strengthened by the resources of the Canada Research Chair program and the appointment of new colleagues in the field. After a term as Chair of Classics Brad formally joined the Philosophy department in 2006.

Brad's career in the department ended with a bang – he spent last year as Acting St. George Chair and Interim Graduate Chair. He plans to return full-time to the serious business of ancient philosophy as he takes up a senior position in Classics and Philosophy at Yale University.

informal, and the simple fact that we had to make a separate choice for graduate chair have made a permanent difference to the way our unique model of tri-campus governance works.

I've enjoyed the role of interim chair, especially the opportunity to work more closely with Jennifer Nagel as Director of Graduate Studies, Mark Kingwell as Placement Officer and with the amazing support staff in the graduate program, Margaret Opoku-Pare, Mary Frances Ellison and now Jelena Milivojevic as well.

My colleagues on the new tri-campus executive committee have been great to work with – Phil Kremer and Sergio Tenenbaum provided crucial advice at every turn. I also got to know our graduate students better, especially the ones from outside my own research area, and that was gratifying – even when you factor the stresses and strains emerging from the CUPE strike.

I'm pleased that our students have done so well in placement, despite the very difficult conditions in the job market, and that our incoming class of graduate students for next year is so strong and promising.

The great job we've been doing was recognized by strong rankings in the 2014-2015 Philosophical Gourmet Report (we tied for 11th place in the English-speaking world). Retired colleague Ian Hacking shed yet more reflected glory on our department when he was awarded the Balzan Prize last fall, the proceeds from which will help our graduate students do even more impressive work in the future.

Martin inherits a thriving graduate program rooted in three outstanding undergraduate philosophy departments, a unique and highly successful model for philosophical education. I am proud and grateful to have had the chance to contribute to its growth.

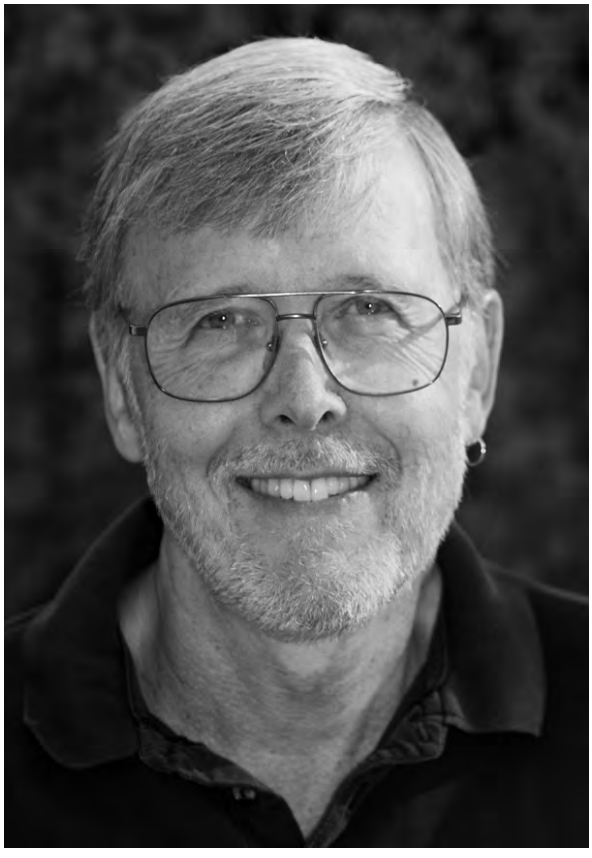
Brad Inwood

Interim Chair (2014-15), Graduate Department of Philosophy

Wayne Sumner

My Brilliant (But Brief) Legal Career

Earlier in 2015, in the case of Carter v Canada, the Supreme Court of Canada struck down the laws prohibiting physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia and gave Parliament a year to find a suitable regime to regulate these practices.



Most Canadians celebrated this turn of events as opening up new options for patients facing significant end-of-life suffering. But I had more reason to celebrate than most, since I played a small – but, I like to think, significant – role in the decision.

How did a philosopher like me come to get involved in such an important legal case? I'll answer that question in a minute, but first I want to remind you just how unlikely my involvement was.

Anyone who has taken philosophy courses – and that would be all of you – knows just how abstruse and removed from the concerns of everyday life the subject can be. It's a little difficult to believe that anyone specializing in analytic metaphysics or medieval philosophy might find a way to deploy their expertise for the public good.

Ethics, however, might be expected to be different, since it seems an inherently practical discipline focused ultimately on questions of good and bad, right and wrong. I've spent my career working in ethics precisely for that reason: because I thought that at least here philosophical teaching and research might be able to make a difference in the world.

And on many occasions I have tested the patience of my colleagues, in both ethics and other branches of philosophy, by exhorting them to use their critical and analytical skills to advance worthwhile public causes.

When the Carter case came along I had my chance to put my money where my mouth was. My book on Assisted Death had come out in the summer of 2011, coincidentally just as the British Columbia Civil Liberties Association was launching its constitutional challenge to the criminal laws prohibiting physician-assisted death.

Since I had defended a policy of legalization in the book, I decided to volunteer my services to the BCCLA. Philosopher for hire – or, as I assumed, for free. (Because the Supreme Court awarded the successful appellants costs against the government, I did end up being paid for my work, which means that I cannot say I took the case on pro bono.)

Joe [Arvay, civil liberties lawyer] came up with the idea of having me serve as an expert witness – in ethics.

Being a philosopher and not a lawyer, I really had no idea how I might be able to contribute to the challenge. But the BCCLA helped to solve that problem by putting me in touch with Joseph Arvay, the brilliant west-coast civil liberties lawyer who was the lead counsel for the plaintiffs. When we met for lunch in Toronto, Joe came up with the idea of having me serve as an expert witness – in ethics. As you probably know, expert witnesses usually give evidence as to facts (often scientific facts). Joe did not know of any precedent for an expert to testify to 'ethical facts'. But that is what I did.

First, we had to establish my credentials by convincing the judge that I really am an expert in matters ethical. Adducing evidence of a lengthy career of teaching and publishing in the area did the trick. Then Joe gave

me three ethical questions, for each of which he asked me to write an 'opinion' backed up with arguments. Here are the three questions:

1. Is there a significant ethical difference between the act of suicide and the act of assisting a suicide?

2. Is there a significant ethical difference between physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia?

3. Is there a significant ethical difference between these two practices and other end-of-life treatment measures that may also have the effect of hastening death (such as terminal sedation or the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment)?

My affidavit for the Carter case consist[ed] of my written evidence and about a hundred pages of ethical analysis from my book [Assisted Death].

My answers to these questions were 'no', 'no', and 'no'. The third question was both the most important and the most difficult. Important because it challenged the ethical basis for the legal status quo which permits some life-shortening treatment options while prohibiting others. Difficult because it required addressing two distinctions often claimed to be dispositive of these issues: between intending the consequences of one's action and merely foreseeing them, and between making these consequences happen and merely allowing them to happen. I won't bore you with the details of my arguments, but if you are curious (or obsessive) enough to want to see them just contact me and I will send you the text of my evidence.

My affidavit for the Carter case, consisting of my written evidence and about a hundred pages of ethical analysis from my book, was submitted at the end of the summer of 2011. The case was argued before Madame Justice Lynn Smith of the British Columbia Supreme Court in November of that year. I was not called to testify in person, since in its infinite wisdom the government apparently did not think my ethical opinions worth challenging. As it turned out, that might have been a mistake.

When Justice Smith's decision came down in June 2012 it ran to more than 400 pages. On the way to striking the laws down, she dealt with all of the relevant legal issues, but also with the ethical ones. After sifting through all the ethical evidence, she concluded by agreeing with my opinions on all three questions. By doing so, she effectively removed the ethical basis for the existing laws.

That was not the only way of justifying the laws, nor even the most important. The crucial question, on which her decision turned, was not so much ethical as practical: Is a blanket ban necessary in order to protect vulnerable persons from being pressured to die, or could a more selective regime be instituted safely – one that would allow competent patients to request a physician-assisted death in order to avoid intolerable suffering?

After an exhaustive review of the evidence from jurisdictions that had already taken the step of legalization, Justice Smith concluded that safeguards within such a regime could effectively prevent abuse. She consequently found that the existing ban was overbroad and therefore a violation of the rights to life, liberty, and security of the person guaranteed by Section 7 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

When the Carter case made it to the Supreme Court, it was this issue of overbreadth that dominated the Justices' attention. In the end, they agreed with Justice Smith's conclusion and on that basis unanimously struck the law down. By that point the ethical issues had receded somewhat into the background, so I cannot claim too much credit for helping to bring about this historic verdict. But I do like to think that the Justices might have had second thoughts about their verdict had they believed that physician-assisted death is ethically unjustifiable.

However this might be, it was very gratifying to play a part in the overall process, however minor. Just to be clear, most of the credit for this historic result belongs to the BCCLA for initiating the challenge, to the plaintiffs for their persistence in seeing it through, and to the legal team, especially Joe Arvay, for arguing it so brilliantly. I owe a personal debt to Joe for finding a way for a philosopher to make a contribution to the cause.

Postscript: This was not the first appearance of my arguments before the Supreme Court. When the Court struck down the abortion law in its 1988 Morgentaler decision, Madame Justice Bertha Wilson, then the only woman on the Court, cited my 1981 book Abortion and Moral Theory in support of her arguments. So twice in the last thirty years I have made an appearance in a landmark legal case dealing with life-and-death issues. For a lowly working philosopher, that's not a bad record.

Wayne Sumner
University Professor Emeritus

ROSEMAN LECTURE 2015

Global Justice: From Theory to Practice – Interview with Joshua Cohen

Ellen Roseman(l) with Joshua Cohen

Joshua Cohen was a philosophy professor at Stanford University from 2008 to 2014, specializing in political theory. Then, he resigned to join Apple University on a full-time basis. For the past two years, he has been leading seminars with Apple staff about lessons learned from inspiring people, such as Spanish artist Pablo Picasso and U.S. landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

Cohen's departure from academia to work in the private sector made him an ideal choice to give the 2015 Roseman Lecture in Practical Ethics last November. His talk focused on a research project, aimed at reducing the high rate of labour turnover at Chinese factories that make components for Apple products. The title was Global Justice: From Theory to Practice.

"When I started doing work on turnover, no one was doing it," he said. "We wanted to ensure that each person was treated with dignity and respect." There are about 1,500 firms in China employing 1.5 million people to make Apple components. The exit rate is "startling high, a sign that something is amiss." About five to seven per cent of the work force quits every week. Half of the workers are gone within eight to 10 weeks. At the factory where he did field research, 78 per cent were male workers with an average age of 25. The women's average age was 26.

More than half finished high school. Almost everyone worked at an average of three jobs apiece before this one. "These were experienced young adults," he said. "Most came from rural areas and expected to get raises and promotions. Many hoped to start their own business. They were showing up for a job, not a career."

After collecting data, Cohen and his research team did exit interviews with 700 people. They had an average stay of just 68 days when they left their jobs. As you might expect, most workers said higher compensation

would make them stay longer. Since there were no unions at these factories, they had to negotiate on their own.

At another factory he studied, the workers spent an average 20 seconds doing the same activity on the production line. The longest tasks required 40 to 60 seconds. "These jobs are not drawing on the workers' human capacities. More complex activities are better, since they are more enjoyable," he said.

Cohen's initial research raises a number of ethical issues:

> Apple is one of the world's largest and innovative companies. Can it continue doing highly productive work while losing five to seven per cent of its work force each week?
>
> Apple's own research showed that high turnover of workers did not reduce production of the iPhone 5, launched in fall 2012. "Attrition had no effect on yield. That was shocking," Cohen said.
>
> The Chinese factory he studies was not interested in giving regular annual raises to recognize the contributions of those who stayed a long time. "They acknowledged it was the right thing to do, but it was not a commercial consideration."
>
> Factories would have to spend more to hire supervisors if they gave workers more complex activities. Would the oversight costs exceed the turnover costs?

As you can tell, Cohen is still highly engaged in doing this field work – which he calls a compelling mix of intellectual, practical and ethical factors. But he has other things on the go.

In July 2015, he joined the faculty of University of California, Berkeley, where he spends one day a week running workshops and serving on dissertation committees. He is also co-editor-in-chief of The Boston Review, a lively independent non-profit magazine dedicated to discussing public issues. It appears in print six times a year (sold at some Toronto newsstands) and online at BostonReview.net.

Over lunch at Hart House's Gallery Grill, Cohen talked in depth about the late Canadian pianist Glenn Gould – whom he uses as a springboard for a three-hour workshop on creativity at Apple University. He was planning to have breakfast the following day with Brian Levine, executive director of The Glenn Gould Foundation in Toronto, before giving another lecture to U. of T. philosophy students and heading back to California.

Ellen Roseman

Balzan Research Project (2015-2019) – Styles of Reasoning

The aim of the Balzan Styles of Reasoning research project is to continue and advance the important and wide-ranging work of Professor Ian Hacking, 2014 winner of the Balzan Prize, through the support of emerging researchers, conferences, and publications.

Although Hacking's work covers a tremendous range, it is united by a single concern. He shows how our contemporary investigations of nature and of ourselves – our science, our mathematics, our philosophy, and our definitions of chance, illness, and the self – have been shaped by our concepts and their histories. Hacking's socio-historical-philosophical examinations of the rise and fall of different styles of reasoning have had a lasting impact on the sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. His work demonstrates his mastery of the formal techniques of logic and confirmation theory, as well as his depth of knowledge of contemporary science and its history. It has led to the introduction

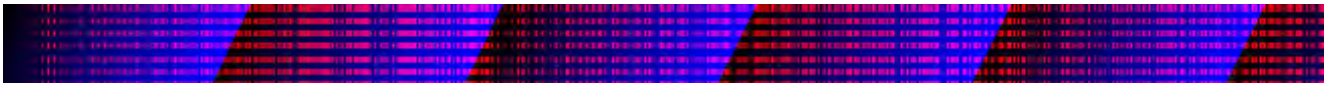
continued next page

BALZAN

and elaboration of new conceptual structures; distinctive ways of understanding the possibility and growth of knowledge; and new understandings of the relation between thought, language, and cognition.

For its full 5-year duration, the Balzan Styles of Reasoning research project will support graduate students exploring styles of reasoning in the wide range of topics dealt with by Professor Hacking: Philosophy of Mind, Epistemology, Philosophy of Science and Mathematics, and Social and Political Philosophy. Funds are available to support both University of Toronto doctoral students and visiting international graduate students; however, visiting international graduate students always need to have independent external funding as well to be admitted at Toronto. The research project will also supply travel awards to Toronto graduate students presenting their research at international conferences.

In 2019 the Styles of Reasoning will end in a major conference in Toronto, featuring contributions from leading established scholars and the emerging scholars whose research has been funded by the project.



Since being launched just two years ago by Franz Huber and Jonathan Weisberg, Ergo has received over 500 submissions and published 27 papers, carefully selected by faculty from all three UofT campuses and philosophers around the globe.

Between two and three thousand readers visit Ergo's website every month, with 2,500 subscribers receiving updates about new articles. Some papers are downloaded more than a thousand times within weeks of being published. And every paper published in Ergo has been read at least a hundred times within its first year.

Ergo's speedy rise marks a turn in philosophy towards "open access" publication: every article published in Ergo is freely available online, accessible to anyone with an internet connection. In February 2015, Canada's Minister of Science and Technology announced a new, open access requirement for all future research funded by SSHRC (the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada), which awarded over $2 million to Canadian philosophers last year alone. With philosophers and funding bodies turning toward the open access model, Ergo is poised to capitalize on its early successes and secure its position as one of philosophy's premiere publication venues.

Ergo is also setting a new bar, pushing philosophy towards more inclusive, transparent, and efficient practices. Ergo's review process is fully anonymous to minimize bias. Its editorial board, and the papers it publishes, represent a wide range of philosophical topics and approaches. Recent articles range in topic from analytic metaphysics to continental phenomenology, from experimental feminist philosophy to the semantics of aesthetics.

Authors who submit their work to Ergo can also expect it to be evaluated promptly, receiving a decision in three weeks, on average. And philosophers considering submitting their work can find more such statistics, automatically updated-to-the-moment, on the Ergo website.

Ergo also harnesses the power of the web to supply authors and referees with detailed feedback and unique features, breaking with the usual, black-box experience of the editorial process. Authors can track every detail of the review process, including requests to, and responses from, referees. And referees' reports are shared with other referees once a decision is rendered, so that the referee can see how their evaluation compares with their peers'.

Open, efficient, and inclusive, Ergo represents an exciting new direction for philosophy and the dissemination of philosophical research.

You can browse the current issues of Ergo at: www.ergophiljournal.org.

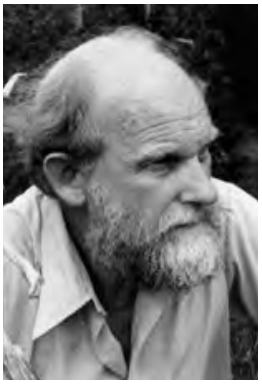
Please consider supporting Ergo by making a donation to the Ergo Trust Fund: https://donate.utoronto.ca/give/show/48

Portrait of Emil Fackenheim Donated to the Department

The Department is very grateful to Ruth Podeswa, the widow of the painter Yehuda Podeswa, for the gift of a portrait of Emil L. Fackenheim. In 1978 Yehuda Podeswa, artist and Holocaust survivor, painted at least three portraits of Emil L. Fackenheim, who had taught in the Philosophy Department at the University of Toronto since 1948. Podeswa was born in Poland in 1924 into a family of artists and trained there and in Germany. In 2013, when Michael Morgan was searching for a photograph for the cover of his book on Fackenhiem, Ralph and Kitty Wintrob, old and dear friends of the Fackenheim family, told Morgan of the paintings. Yidel Podeswa had been a well-known artist whose paintings are in many private collections and who had had many one-man shows in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg, and Halifax. When Morgan approached Ruth Podeswa, the artist's widow, Yidel had passed away a year earlier. Ruth discovered this painting and another in the basement of their home, showed it to Morgan, and generously made it available to be used on the cover of Fackenheim's Jewish Philosophy: An Introduction, which appeared in 2013 as the first volume of the Kenneth Michael Tanenbaum Series in Jewish Studies, published by the University of Toronto Press under the auspices of the UofT's Centre for Jewish Studies. The impressionistic painting captures Fackenheim at a typical daily, reflective moment, marking a passage in his reading. The oblique orientation of Fackenheim's posture speaks to the direction of his thinking, angling in on the texts and ideas of the past, recovering fragments that – when reconfigured – may bring some measure of hope to our ordinary lives. The painting now hangs in the administrative area of the Philosophy Department.

In Memoriam

Francis Sparshott 1926 - 2015 – Poet, Philosopher, Writer, Maker



Francis Sparshott, one of the Department's most prominent scholars, died on August 24, 2015. Apart from visiting professorships in Canada, the U.S. and New Zealand, he spent his entire career at the University of Toronto, being appointed as Lecturer in 1950 and retiring as University Professor in 1991.

He was an incredibly prolific writer of prose and verse. His philosophical works include: An Enquiry into Goodness and Related Concepts (1958), The Structure of Aesthetics (1963), The Concept of Criticism (1967), Looking for Philosophy (1972), The Theory of the Arts (1982), Off the Ground: First Steps to a Philosophical Consideration of the Dance (1988), Taking Life Seriously: A Study of the Argument of the Nicomachean Ethics (1994), A Measured Pace: Toward a Philosophical Understanding of the Arts of Dance (1995), and The Future of Aesthetics (1998).

He also published thirteen books of poems and scores more in books and magazines, more than a hundred philosophical articles and book chapters, and more than a hundred book reviews. The Journal of Aesthetic Education published a special issue in honor of Francis in Summer 1997, which contains an excellent bibliography of his writings (but of course, sadly, only up to that date). Francis was President of the Canadian Philosophical Association in 1975-6, he was appointed a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1977, he was President of the League of Canadian Poets 1977-79, President of the American Society for Aesthetics 1981-82, and President of the Toronto Semiotic Circle 1985-86. He was awarded a Killam Senior Research Fellowship in 1977-78 and a Connaught Senior Fellowship in 1984-85.

Francis was born and brought up in England. His father was a schoolmaster at the King's School, attached to Rochester Cathedral, and Francis attended the school because his father didn't have to pay the fees and couldn't afford to send him to a better school. In 1943 he won a scholarship to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where in Oxford parlance he "read Greats", i.e. he studied Greek and Roman literature, in the original ancient Greek and Latin, Greek and Roman history, and Greek philosophy, as well as modern philosophy. After the first year at Oxford, Francis was called up for war duty and served in the army for three years. The war brought Francis a tangible benefit, it paid for the rest of his university degree, as a war veteran. He stayed in Oxford until 1950, earning his M.A. and starting a B.Phil.

> Francis was told that ... he had to teach aesthetics as well [as ancient philosophy]. Dissatisfied with the prevailing textbook, Francis decided to write his own, which turned into The Structure of Aesthetics.

In 1950, Fulton Anderson, the head of U of T's Department of Philosophy, urgently required, in Francis's words, "someone who could read Plato in Greek and teach at the bottom of the salary scale." So Anderson "went to Oxford, where Greek philosophy came from in those days, and got a list of prospects from Gilbert Ryle," who happened to be Francis's supervisor. Francis was assigned to the Department of Ethics at University College, which was part of the University Department of Philosophy. Victoria and Trinity also had Departments of Ethics, but they were independent insofar as they made their own appointments. The college departments were officially abolished in 1975 and since then philosophy has been one big happy family.

At the end of his first year Francis was told that there was not enough ancient philosophy for him to teach the next year, so he had to teach aesthetics as well. Dissatisfied with the prevailing textbook, Francis decided to write his own, which turned into The Structure of Aesthetics.

> Francis had an ambivalent attitude to philosophy because what he really loved was poetry

With six books on aesthetics to his credit and innumerable invited lectures and articles on the subject, Francis is now known far and wide for his work on aesthetics. It is remarkable that such a huge body of writing and teaching should have had such a fortuitous beginning. Many professors are stimulated by teaching new sub-

jects to pursue them further, but not often to that extent.

In 1955, Francis, still only a Lecturer, was offered an Assistant Professorship at Victoria College. Once ensconced at Vic, Francis stayed there for the rest of his academic career, becoming Associate Professor in 1962, Professor in 1964, and University Professor in 1982. He was chairman of the Vic department from 1965 to 1970, during which time he kindly appointed me, starting as a sessional lecturer.

"I can still usually make people laugh on a suitable occasion. Actually it is easy: all one has to do is tell the exact truth. Nothing is funnier than things as they really are ..."

Francis had an ambivalent attitude to philosophy because what he really loved was poetry. In 1981 he was pleased when he won the First Prize in the CBC Literary Competition for his poem "The Cave of Trophonius," which was later published as the title poem of one of his books. I cannot really comment on Francis's poetry because I know nothing about poetry except what he taught me. I can, though, comment on the titles of his books of poetry which seem to me wonderful. Sometimes he invests everyday expressions with a deeper meaning, e.g. Storms and Screens (1986) and Scoring in Injury Time (2006). Sometimes there is an absurdist twist: e.g. New Fingers for Old Dikes (1981), The Hanging Gardens of Etobicoke (1983) and Views from the Zucchini Gazebo (1994). His first published book of poems was A Divided Voice (1965) suggesting the two voices, philosophical and poetic, in which he spoke. The second was A Cardboard Garage (1969), the cardboard being the book's covers and the garage a place to store his poems. His other books of poetry are The Naming of the Beasts (1979), The Rainy Hills (1979), Sculling to Byzantium (1989), Home from the Air (1997), and The City Dwellers (2000).

Francis was a serious person but he was also extremely funny. He said that making people laugh was a survival tactic that he had started at school: "I can still usually make people laugh on a suitable occasion. Actually it is easy: all one has to do is tell the exact truth. Nothing is funnier than things as they really are, but I can do puns and stuff as well." When he was Secretary of the Victoria College Council he had to keep the minutes: "people laughed at my minutes, not because I made jokes but because I tried to make an accurate and succinct record of what my assembled colleagues had said and done." Francis is well known for his witty footnotes. His puns and love of wordplay are manifest in A Book by "Cromwell Kent," which Francis had printed in 1970. The pseudonym "Cromwell Kent" was by way of contrast with the Oxford philosopher Stuart Hampshire: "if, as experience proves, a philosopher can be called Stuart Hampshire, why not Tudor Cornwall or Cromwell Kent?" Kent was the county of Francis's birth and upbringing. Cromwell was an adversary of the Stuarts. In fact Stuart Hampshire was one of those Oxford philosophers who disparaged aesthetics, and he is one of those philosophers whom Francis criticizes in The Structure of Aesthetics. Hampshire maintained that "ethics is necessary but aesthetics is not, because art is gratuitous but action is not." For Francis this sentiment reflects the typical philosopher's emphasis on thinking and doing. However, "if we accept the traditional division of human activities into thinking, doing and making – and it seems a reasonable enough division – aesthetics seems to arise as naturally out of reflection on making as ethics out of reflection on doing." It cannot escape one's notice that thinking, doing and making correspond to the Aristotelian triad of noesis, praxis, and poiesis, and to the three traditional concerns of philosophy, the True, the Good, and the Beautiful.

Francis describes three reasons why he liked to write philosophy. In the first place, he wrote philosophy because he was a writer: "Prose came naturally to me." He might have been a writer of fiction or history instead. "But," he says, "I would not have been me if I had never been a writer at all." In the second place, he says, "Philosophy, of a sort, comes easy to me because I cannot understand things that seem obvious to everyone else. But I keep puzzling away at them. It is my good fortune that all I need to do is worry away at things the way I like to do, and worry away at what sort of worrying I am doing, and I am automatically doing philosophy in a way that other philosophers will accept." And third, he says, "philosophical thinking has become part of me: the shapes of argument and philosophical dialectic have become a living reality that I feel on my nerves, plastic and malleable." So philosophy was as much part of him as poetry.

Francis's last published book was Scoring in Injury Time in 2006. Francis was 80, and it was certainly "injury time". His wife Kitty had died in 2004. Some years later Francis developed Alzheimer's, a disease which had also afflicted his father. Francis died in the True Davidson Home in Toronto at the age of 89. He is survived by his daughter, Pumpkin, who still lives in the house on the Scarborough Bluffs that Francis and Kitty bought in the 1960s.

Mark Thornton
Professor Emeritus
former Chair, Department of Philosophy

An unabridged version of this notice, supplemented by remarks by former students and colleagues, can be read on our department website at http://uoft.me/sparshott

Undergraduate Student Awards

Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Arts and Science

George Kennedy Scholarship: **Rory Harder**

John F.M. Hunter Memorial Scholarship: **Robert Wesley**

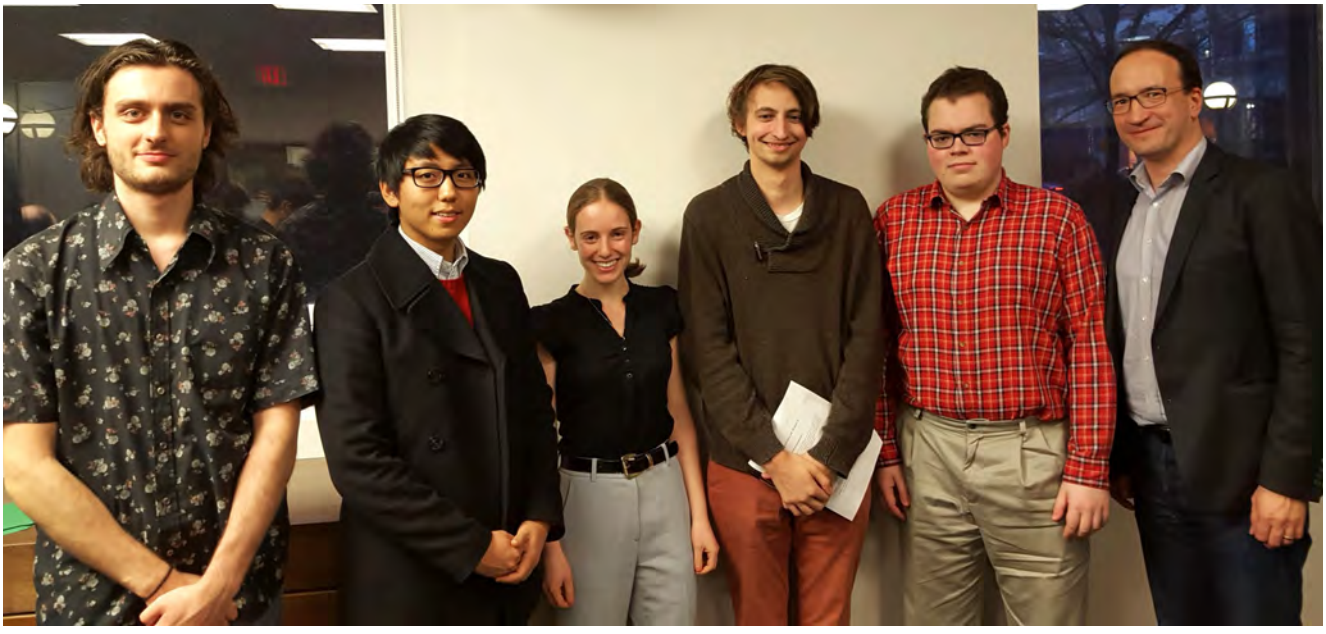
John MacDonald Scholarship in Philosophy: **Zoe Sebastien**

Scotia Capital Markets Bursary in Philosophy: **Ryan Graham**

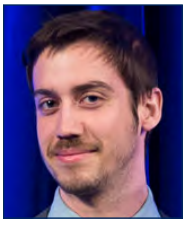
Sunflower Scholarship: **David Hyunjoon So**

Thomas A. Goudge Scholarship in Philosophy: **Michael Benedicto**

Thomas J. Lang Scholarship in Philosophy: **Daniel Fitz** & **Pouya Mohammad-Makki**



(l-r) Pouya Mohammad Makki, David Hyunjoon So, Zoe Sebastian, Rory Harder, and Michael Benedicto with Martin Pickavé, at the 2015 World Philosophy Day event.



Charles Dalrymple-Fraser was awarded the ASSU (Arts and Science Students' Union) Katherine Ball Award for his work with the Philosophy Course Union and a 2015 Gordon Cressy Leadership Award.

Charles served two terms as president of the Philosophy Course Union and was editor-in-chief of Noesis, the undergraduate journal of philosophy. He also volunteered for several university recruitment events including Fall Campus Days and March Break open houses as well as co-organized a Women-In-Philosophy conference.

Charles is now a student in our PhD program.

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto Mississauga

First Year Prizes for Overall Performance: **Cindy Do** & **Sean Springstead**

First Year Essay Prize: **Mylene Hangdaan** & **Melissa Toste**

Second and Third Year Essay Prize: **Anderson Christie** & **Jon Tyrell**

Erindale Prize: **Ryan Martins**

Gombay Prize: **Tiana Simovic**

Department of Philosophy, University of Toronto Scarborough

Katherine Nagel Philosophy Prize: **Amir Ayazi**

Graduate Student Awards

Joshua Brandt
was one of three winners of a Sanders Graduate Prize from the American Philosophical Association in 2015. His prizewinning paper is entitled "Partiality's Negative Analogue."

Jonathan Payton
was one of the top 25 entrants for the 2015 SSHRC Storytellers contest. His short video on "The Philosophy of Negative Action" can be found at: https://youtu.be/pbQKltJd89Q.

Celia Byrne
won a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, valued at $50K/year, for the three years 2015-2018; she is now starting work on a thesis in medieval philosophy, focusing on Ibn Sina's theory of knowledge.

Luke Roelofs (PhD 2014)
won the David Savan Dissertation Prize for his thesis, "*Combining Minds: A defense of the Possibility of Experiential Combination*".

Daniel Hooley
was the 2014 a winner of the Martha Lile Love Award for Excellence in Teaching Philosophy for his PHL283S Bioethics course taught at UTM in Summer 2014.

Hamish Russell
was one of the winners of the 2014 Amartya Sen Prize, a prize jointly administered by Yale's Global Justice Program, Academics Stand Against Poverty, and Global Financial Integrity. Hamish's winning essay, "*Abusive Tax Avoidance and Responsibilities of Tax Professionals*", was co-authored with Professor Gillian Brock of the University of Auckland, where Hamish completed his BA in 2013.

Manish Oza
was the winner of the 2015 Martha Lile Love Essay Award for his essay "Hegel and Formal Idealism".

Sean Smith
was one of the winners of the 2014-15 TATP (Teaching Assistants' Training Program's) Teaching Excellence Award.

Faculty Awards, Honours, Appointments, and Promotions

Donald Ainslie,
who currently serves as Principal of University College, was appointed Provostial Advisor on Undergraduate Humanities Education starting January 2015. While the Department has long benefited from Donald's innovations, his imaginative and practical approach to pedagogy will now benefit undergraduates across the entire university!

Imogen Dickie
has been appointed Director of Undergraduate Studies in the St. George department.

Faculty Awards, Honours, Appointments, and Promotions

David Dyzenhaus
has been appointed to the rank of University Professor, one of the University's most prestigious and competitive designations. This is a great honor to him and to the two disciplines represented by his outstanding work, Philosophy and Law. David has also been awarded a fellowship at the Wissenschaftskolleg in Berlin, which he will take up in 2016-2017.

William Harvey,
Professor Emeritus, was awarded the Canadian Bioethics Society Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014.

Joseph Heath
won the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for Political Writing in March 2015 for his book *Enlightenment 2.0: Restoring Sanity to Our Politics, Our Economy, and our Lives*. The book argues for a return to the ideals of a time where rationality was the ultimate trump card of political discourse.

Karolina Hübner
has been awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of Philosophy at UTSC.

Michael Morgan
has been appointed Professor and Senator Jerahmiel S. and Carole S. Grafstein Visiting Chair in Jewish Philosophy for a three-year term, starting July 2015. This is a joint appointment at the Centre for Jewish Studies and the Department of Philosophy.

Margaret Morrison
has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She has also received the Carl Friedrich Siemens Research Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, conferred in recognition of lifetime achievements in research and teaching.

Martin Pickavé
was promoted to Professor and was appointed Graduate Chair of the tri-campus Graduate Department for 2015-2021. He also serves as Chair of the St. George Philosophy Department.

Belinda Piercy
has been appointed TA coordinator. She is also a lecturer in philosophy at UTM.

Faculty Awards, Honours, Appointments, and Promotions

Diana Raffman has received three awards this past year. Her book *Unruly Words: A Study of Vague Language*, was awarded a 2015 Canadian Philosophical Association Book Prize and also the American Philosophical Association's 2015 Sanders Book Prize as "the best book in philosophy of mind, metaphysics, or epistemology that engages the analytic tradition published in English in the previous five-year period".

Diana also received the 2015 UTM Research Excellence Award given in recognition of "outstanding achievement in research and scholarly activity by faculty members of the University of Toronto Mississauga". Moreover, she has also been appointed Chair of the UTM Department of Philosophy from July 1, 2015 until December 31, 2020.

For more on Student and Faculty Awards and Honours see the News section of our department website

www.philosophy.utoronto.ca

Visiting Professors and New Postdoctoral Fellows

Arun Balasubamaniam, Senior Research Fellow at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore, is a Philosopher of Science and Environmental Philosophy. He has been a frequent visitor to UofT in the past. He is using his current stay in Toronto to work on a project on comparative history and philosophy of science

Dorothea Frede, Professor Emerita at the University of Hamburg and a well-known expert on Plato and Aristotle, visited our department in the past Fall as the Jackman Visiting Professor in Ancient Philosophy. In Toronto, Dorothea taught a graduate class on Aristotle's account of friendship and lead the weekly Greek philosophy reading group of the Collaborative Program in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy. She also spent her time here to work on the completion of her commentary on Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics.

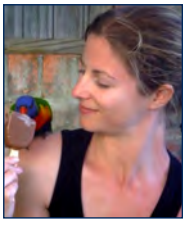
Daniel Schwartz is visiting us from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, where he is a Senior Lecturer at the Departments of Political Science and International Relations. His current research concerns the political and ethical thought of the Late Scholastics with an emphasis on Francisco Suárez. He is also the author of Aquinas on Friendship (OUP, 2007) and non-historical papers contributing to present ethical debates. Daniel is using his sabbatical stay at Toronto to write a book. The book surveys the development of late scholastic controversies about the duties of subjects. It covers themes such as the moral permissibility of fighting in morally doubtful wars, vote-buying, expelling the foreign poor from the city, and the moral limits of artistic freedom.

Gabriel Citron (PhD Oxford) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Centre for Jewish Studies and the Department of Philosophy. He is currently working to make the case for apophaticism as a live option for analytic philosophers of religion. Apophaticism is the radical family of positions which see God as transcending all concepts and properties, including even being. It had its heyday in the medieval period, but has largely been ignored by analytic philosophers due to its paradoxicality and its seeming closeness to atheism. Gabriel is drawing on the writings of such thinkers as John Scottus Eriugena, Moses Maimonides, and Ibn Arabi – reworking their arguments so as to take advantage of recent work in logic, metaphysics, and philosophy of language.

Justin Dallmann (PhD USC) is a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow. His principal research interests focus on questions at the intersection of epistemology, the philosophy of science, and cognitive science like: "What should we believe in light of our evidence?", "What is evidence, or evidential impact?", "How should we respond to information given our cognitive limitations?", and "How does our believing a proposition relate to our confidence that that proposition obtains?". For example, he has recently been interested in modeling our cognitive limitations using queuing theory (the mathematics of "lines" or "queues") and assessing policies for responding to information using those models.

Visiting Professors and New Postdoctoral Fellows

Victor Kumar (PhD Arizona) is also a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow. He joins us after completing a postdoc at the University of Michigan. Victor works at the intersection of moral philosophy, moral psychology, and empirical psychology. His research considers questions about the role of consistency reasoning in moral judgment, as well as a number of related questions about the importance of various sentiments in moral thought and practice. This work has appeared in a number of leading journals, including Ethics.



Amber Ross (PhD UNC) is a postdoctoral fellow in Mohan Matthen's project on the senses. Her own projects revolve around the problem of consciousness and the metaphysics of mind. First, she is interested in how we should understand human consciousness, what properties we ought to attribute to mental states and how we justify those attributions. Secondly, she works on the question of how we ought to understand the notion of consciousness as it applies to other kinds of minds, primarily other animal minds. She is currently editing a collection of essays with Bryce Huebner on the philosophy of Daniel Dennett, and a commentary on "Illusionism", a new approach to consciousness by Keith Frankish in a special issue of the Journal of Consciousness Studies later this year, as well as an article on Philosophical Zombies for IEP.

2015-2016 PAST EVENTS

2015 Simon Lectures

On March 24-26, Jennifer Hornsby (Birkbeck College) gave the 2015 Simon Lectures.
The theme of her lectures was "Agency: Some Questions in Semantics, Metaphysics and Epistemology."
The first lecture was entitled "Causality and Causativity" and the second "Practical Knowledge and the Objects of Intention". On the day between the first and second lecture, Professor Hornsby also gave a seminar.

2015 Roseman Lecture in Practical Ethics

Please see Ellen Roseman's article on pages 12-13 for more details.

2015 Graduate Conference

The theme of the 2015 graduate conference was "Perspectives on the First Person: The Philosophical Significance of the First-Person Point of View." Keynote speakers were David Chalmers (NYU) and Carol Rovane (Columbia). We also welcomed five graduate speakers from across North America (including some notable alumni) who contributed to discussions of aboriginal suicide and oppression, moral luck, consciousness and intentionality, and nonsense as a norm of belief. One feature of this year's conference was a panel on "Accounting for Underrepresented Perspectives in Philosophy and Academia", which was organized in collaboration with two student groups, MAP (Minorities and Philosophy) and WIP (Women in Philosophy).

World Philosophy Day

Ted Sider (Rutgers University), was the speaker for the 2015 World Philosophy Day Lecture on November 19.

This annual lecture is an event jointly organized by the Philosophy Course Union (PCU), the department's undergraduate association, and the St. George Department of Philosophy to celebrate our undergraduate students. Sider's lecture was about "The Metaphysics of Science"

Ted Sider with members of the PCU executive

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11-12, 2016 – Annual Workshop in Ancient Philosophy

March 24, 2016 – Alexander Lecture: Alison Gopnik (Berkeley)

April 14, 2016 – Crispin Wright (NYU), Colloquium talk

May 5-6, 2016 – Graduate Conference 2016;
Keynote speakers: Helen Steward (Leeds); Kieran Setiya (MIT)

May 16-20, 2016 – Summer Institute on Spinoza and German Idealism

Please check our website (www.philosophy.utoronto.ca) for a complete list of upcoming events and for more details.

28th Annual Philosophy Book Launch

March 12, 2015

(l-r) Donald Ainslie, Ronnie de Sousa, Joseph Heath, Jennifer Nagel, Brad Inwood, Tom Hurka, David Novak, Willi Goetschel, Mohan Matthen, Michael Vertin. Not pictured: Margaret Morrison and Vincent Shen

Donald C Ainslie and Annemarie Butler, editors
The Cambridge Companion to Hume's Treatise
Cambridge University Press, 2015

Ronald de Sousa
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